



BUILDING BLOCKS

A Newsletter for Teachers Working with Infant, Toddler
and Preschool
Educational Equity For All

February 2019

THE SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

- Setting Up The Preschool Classroom
- Planning Your Year
- Planning Your Day
- Communicating With Parents
- Classroom Management
- Circle Time
- Small Groups
- Literacy
- Math
- Science
- Music And Movement

<https://teaching2and3yearolds.com/survival-guide-preschool-teachers/>



National Association for the Education of Young Children

Promoting high-quality learning by
connecting practice, policy, and research

- ANTI-BIAS EDUCATION
- BACK TO SCHOOL
- COMMON CORE
- COPING WITH STRESS AND VIOLENCE
- DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICE (DAP)
- FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
- GUIDANCE AND CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS
- LITERACY
- MATH
- PLAY
- SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- STEM
- TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA

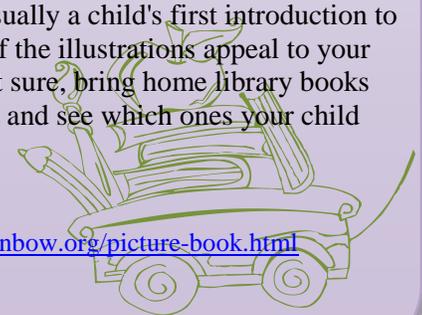
<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics>

How To Choose A Picture Book by Ellen Jackson

A good story for preschool children should have a fast moving plot and an up-beat ending (even if the story deals with a difficult subject). Ask yourself these questions:

- Will you enjoy reading this book to your child? If you like the book, chances are good that you will communicate your enthusiasm to your child.
- Is the book preachy or teachy? While a story may have a theme that makes a child think, a good book is never written to convey a message.
- A good book should avoid all bias - age bias, gender bias racial bias.
- Does the book feature a cartoon character or have a movie or television tie-in? Books such as these are often written for commercial reasons and may not be the best choice for your child.
- Is the language rhythmical and imaginative? Try reading a few paragraphs aloud. The words should flow smoothly and the sentences should be easy to read.
- Is the story one that your child might like to hear over and over again?
- Is the plot surprising or predictable? Is the story funny? Do the characters solve a problem in an unusual way? In other words, is the book interesting and fun?
- Picture books are usually a child's first introduction to art. Will the style of the illustrations appeal to your child? (If you aren't sure, bring home library books with different styles and see which ones your child likes.)

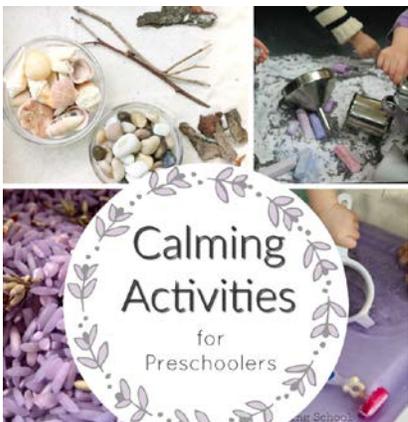
<https://www.preschoolrainbow.org/picture-book.html>



EDUCATIONAL
EQUITY FOR ALL
..... Giving kids what they need to succeed.

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FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



<https://goo.gl/MuF8Zz>



35 Fun Name Activities Perfect For Preschoolers

1. Squirt their name! Create a fizzing reaction using baking soda sidewalk paint and vinegar!
2. Try the Paper Plate Name Song and Game that Little Giraffe shares!
3. Write their name first and have them trace it with pipe cleaners with an activity from Parents.com!
4. Use candles to write their name, with an idea from Fairy Dust Teaching Kindergarten, and watch as the magic happens when they paint over it with watercolors!
5. Make homemade playing cards with photos and names of your family, just like Teach Mama.
6. Similarly, Busy Kids = Happy Mom creates a "Who Am I" book to label important people (and your child!) with their names.
7. Create a name placemat with crayon resist water painting, like Laura's Lily Pad.
8. Write out their name with food. Play Dr. Mom uses "ants on a log."
9. Use these color by number name printables from Royal Baloo to have your child color their name!
10. Try a sensory bin letter hunt, from Smiling like Sunshine, to recognize letters that are in their name.
11. Spell your child's name, then compare how long it is to other names, with an idea from One Sharp Bunch based on the book Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes.
12. Teach Preschool shows how to collage their name with paper scraps onto their prewritten name.
13. Write their name in glue and color over them to make prints, like Excellence in Early Childhood Education!
14. Make your own DIY name recognition kit with this ideas from Fun-A-Day.
15. Use clothespins to make a simple name recognition matching game, from Munchkins and Moms.

<https://goo.gl/iAMFdJ>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://goo.gl/YcoMYP>

<https://goo.gl/7q55R2>

<https://goo.gl/6hWFSc>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Time: 10 min Watch a Training Video
Instantly level-up your knowledge about a specific topic. Training videos include tips for talking with families.

Time: 1 hr Participate in a Webinar
Develop strategies for working with families. Certificates of completion available.

Time: 3+ Hours Take a Course
Put in some professional development hours by taking an online course.

The Big Idea: We can help children develop strong language skills by "languagizing" our interactions and environments.

"Languagizing" with Kathy Hirsh-Pasek
Feb 13, 2019 | 1:00 pm EST Time: 1 hr

<https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/professional-development/>

Teaching a Preschooler to Stop Hitting By [Amanda Rock](#)

As a child gets older and matures, they are able to develop a vocabulary that helps them express through words how they are feeling. Until then, however, you may often see not-so-terrific, aggressive behaviors such as biting and an increase in temper tantrums.

- How to Respond When a Preschooler Is Hitting Others
- Try to Find the Root of the Problem
- Work on Basic Problem-Solving Skills
- Teach your Preschooler to Use Words Instead of Fists

<https://goo.gl/SoJ67o>