

# BUILDING BLOCKS

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



May 2019

Circletime tip #6: Make the circletime story more meaningful by giving the children something they can touch and hold. Choose simple objects that will spark conversation and help the children draw connections between the story and real life.

Circletime tip #7: Keep preschoolers engaged in circletime by having different kinds of visuals that promote conversation and invite interaction.

Circletime tip #8: Be responsive to your students by being willing to modify your agenda to meet their needs and interests.

Circletime tip #9: Having a circletime routine that the children can become familiar with helps the children to know what to expect and to be a more confident participant in the process. However, within any routine it is important to be responsive to the needs and interests of the children. If a routine is not working well, then it will be necessary to adapt, change, shorten, rearrange, or somehow modify the routine.

Circletime tip #10: Make sure that your approach to circletime and your handling of the children during circletime leads young children towards feeling confident in their knowledge and abilities.

<https://teachpreschool.org/2013/03/25/ten-tips-for-circletime/>



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FINGER PLAYS  
FOREVER

<http://drjean.org/>

## Teach Preschool



### 10 Tips For Circletime In The Preschool Classroom

Circletime Tip #1: Think of circletime as a way to foster a sense of community where everyone is a valued member of that community.

Circletime tip #2: Make circletime an interactive experience by seeking out ways to keep your students actively involved in the circletime experience rather than passively sitting while you do all the talking.

Circletime tip #3: Gather tools and materials for the children to physically touch and manipulate during circletime. Make circletime a hands-on-and-do experience rather than just a hands-in-your-lap experience.

Circletime tip #4: Keep circletime fun and engaging by adding movement into the mix of your experience. Focus on developing your own rich library of music and movement songs or action rhymes that you can pull out and use anytime you need to get the children up and moving...

**Circletime tip #5:** Be selective and purposeful in the books you choose to read aloud to your students during circletime. Make sure the books you choose are a right fit for the age of children you are reading to and will be a book your students will enjoy. Spend time getting to know each book before reading it – you should have a good grasp on each page of the book and what approach you will take to reading the book well before you sit down to read it with your students.

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

Tana Donaghy, President, Educational Equity For All  
[Missstanad@educationaequityforall.org](mailto:Missstanad@educationaequityforall.org); 909-964-5057  
<http://www.educationalequity4all.com/>

## FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



Looking for a way to make counting and identifying numbers fun this spring? These 1-12 spring number puzzles are perfect for getting your preschooler counting and matching!

<https://www.playdoughtopla.com/spring-counting-puzzles/>

## WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://www.prekinders.com/category/teaching-tips/>  
<https://www.pre-kpages.com/category/teaching-tip/>  
<http://tinyw.in/3JWr>



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# naeyc

NAEYC's online professional development introduces early childhood educators to core ideas from NAEYC's position statements, books, journals and more. Designed with busy educators in mind, our online resources provide self-paced, interactive learning that connects professional knowledge to daily practice through practical strategies that bolster best instructional approaches. <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pd/online-learning>



### Teaching Strategies

4 strategies to help children prepare for the transition to kindergarten



- Pay attention to routines.
- Ask, "How do you feel about going to kindergarten?"
- Remind children that they're ready to make new friends.
- Reflect and celebrate!

<http://tinyw.in/nvyO>



## Turning Tumult to Tranquility: 10 Tips To Calm the Chaotic Preschool Classroom

1. Structure brings serenity!
2. A picture is worth 1000 words!
3. Reward positive behavior!
4. Banking Time!
5. Consequences must be logical!
6. Adopt a Social-Emotional curriculum!
7. Big Body Play!
8. Allow children to take ownership of the classroom!
9. Interesting and appropriate activities!
10. Take time for yourself!

<http://tinyw.in/HNGU>



Apple Podcasts Preview  
The Preschool Podcast  
HiMama

The Preschool Podcast, brought to you by HiMama, is a platform for learning from leading professionals in early childhood education.

If you work in a daycare, childcare or preschool setting, The Preschool Podcast will provide you with both practical advice for managing your organization, center or classroom, as well as thought provoking content and insights about the field of early childhood education.

<http://tinyw.in/FTFa>



The COOLEST part about this sand slime recipe is that you don't need food coloring! That means less mess for everyone (yay!). Instead, this slime is made with various colors of craft sand. You can mix the colors up or just make one crazy cool color, like this black sand slime:

<http://tinyw.in/UM28>