

BUILDING BLOCKS

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



Welcome back to a new year. This month i will focus on setting up the classroom and setting the tone of the learning environment. Good luck.



Types of Preschool Learning Centers

Your preschoolers are inquisitive about the world, especially during this developmental phase in their life. Curiosity is running high as little hands like to explore, touch, and question everything! Learning centers are the perfect opportunity to harvest that energy into exploration and discovery.

- ❖ Art Center
- ❖ Dramatic Play Center
- ❖ Literacy Center
- ❖ Music and Movement Center
- ❖ Math and Manipulatives Center
- ❖ Nature and Science Center
- ❖ Sand and Water Center
- ❖ Technology Center
- ❖ Writing Center

[HTTPS://T.LY/71AD](https://t.ly/71AD)



The California Preschool Learning Foundations outline key knowledge and skills that most children can achieve when provided with the kinds of interactions, instruction, and environments that research has shown to promote early learning and development.

Social-Emotional Development
Language and Literacy
English-Language Development
Mathematics
Visual and Performing Arts
Physical Development
Health
History and Social Studies
Science

California Preschool Learning Foundations
Volume 1

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/psfoundations.asp>

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- ❖ Dramatic Play
- ❖ Learning Centers
- ❖ Lesson Plans
- ❖ Teaching Tips

PRESCHOOL DAILY SCHEDULE AND VISUAL SCHEDULES



Visual Schedule
A visual picture schedule will help your daily schedule go more smoothly by giving your students a visual reminder of what is happening or will happen next in the classroom. You

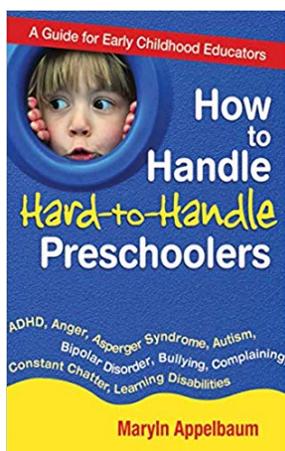
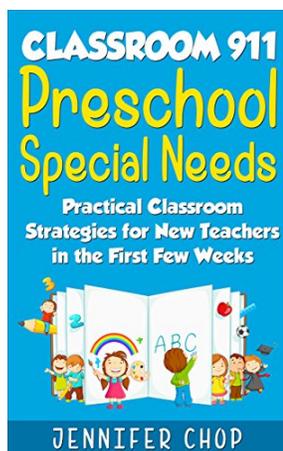
can learn more about how and why to use a picture schedule in your preschool or kindergarten classroom [HERE. https://www.pre-kpages.com/class_schedule/](https://www.pre-kpages.com/class_schedule/)



Planning and Preschool Activities Management for Special Needs Classrooms By Cheryl Gabbert
Encourage Therapists to Join In the Class

Physical therapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy can take place right in the classroom, so encourage therapists to quietly join in when activities are being done that therapists can do with the student. Most therapists will agree that working with the student while the child goes about classroom activities is quite functional and effective. Occupational therapists can assist with cutting skills during a craft or with feeding during lunch. Encourage therapists and other professionals to consult with you during planning time. It's difficult to keep a preschool class running smoothly when you are forced to stop teaching and carry on a 5 or 10 minute conversation with an outside professional during class time. <https://t.ly/mLEg>

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



Technical Assistance & Training System

Early Childhood Classroom Observation Guide
A Walkthrough Checklist for Prekindergarten Classrooms –
Level 3 Examples of Quality Classroom Settings

1. [Furniture arrangement allows for safe supervision](#)
2. [Furnishings are appropriate](#)
3. [Health and safety procedures are implemented](#)
4. [Classroom displays examples of children's work](#)
5. [Room is free of clutter and extraneous stimulation](#)
6. [Classroom spaces well organized & learning materials accessible](#)
7. [Language and literacy experiences prominent](#)
8. [Staff interactions with children are positive and promote critical thinking](#)
9. [Diversity is reflected through the classroom](#)
10. [Outdoor space is safe and accessible](#)
11. [Level of sound is elevated indicating communication and learning](#)
12. [Evidence of DAP curriculum, lesson plans, etc](#)
13. [Opportunities for various activity groups](#)
14. [Evidence of accommodations for diverse learners](#)
15. [Children are actively engaged in activities](#)
16. [Adults work collaboratively as a team](#)
17. [Teaching staff use positive classroom management](#)
18. [Teaching staff promotes social emotional skills](#)
19. [There is evidence that family involvement is encouraged](#)

<https://tats.ucf.edu/curriculum-instruction/early-childhood-classroom-observation-guide/>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://t.ly/Nx2e>
<https://t.ly/rNZD>
<https://t.ly/jxxm>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Free On-demand Webinars for Early Childhood Educators
<https://t.ly/Ree3>



1. Room layout: How you place your room furniture is very important in any preschool classroom.
2. Calm and Serene Colors: As much as I love these super-cute room designs that I see on Pinterest, I cannot in good conscience fill my room with bright-colored chevrons, hanging tissue paper fluff balls all over, and/or bright stripes of any kind. This tends to excite the Special Little People too much, and [can make it difficult for them to focus on the important things](#). So, "Rock the Chevron Trend" I will not. I'm going for a much calmer, less "sensory overload" look.
3. The Practical Needs of My Students: One of the areas that I will need to set up in my room that is unusual to most regular ed. preschool classrooms is a changing area.
<https://t.ly/jxAP>