

# BUILDING BLOCKS

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

October 2019

## Preschooler Discipline: Strategies And Challenges Behavioral Problems And Effective Solutions For Your 3, 4, And 5-Year-Olds

### Typical Behavior

- Separation anxiety
- Frustration
- Pushing boundaries
- Can follow simple rules
- Developing impulse control

### Behavioral Challenges

- Lying
- Whining
- Reverting to baby talk
- Defiance
- Aggressive behavior

## Discipline Strategies That Work

An effective discipline should include negative consequences that deter misbehavior from being repeated and positive consequences that motivate your child to keep up the good work.<sup>4</sup> While your plan should be tailored to your child's temperament, the following discipline strategies are usually most effective for preschoolers.

- Praise Good Behavior
- Place Your Child in Time-Out
- Take Away Privileges
- Create a Reward System

## Communication Tips

While your preschooler has a better understanding of language skills, it's important to keep your communication brief and effective.<sup>6</sup> Skip the lengthy lectures and establish good communication habits with your child now. Here are several effective ways to communicate with your preschooler:

- Keep it short and sweet.
- Establish healthy communication practices.
- Offer limited choices.
- Talk about alternatives.
- Give effective instructions.

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/discipline-strategies-for-preschoolers-620098>



## The five essential guidelines for effective teaching in Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) are:

- Creating a caring community of learners.
- Teaching to enhance development and learning.
- Planning curriculum to achieve important goals.
- Assessing children's development and learning.
- Establishing reciprocal relationships with family.

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/dap-strategies-for-effective-teaching.html>



## Preschool teaching strategies

Promote early literacy. Preschool children develop literacy skills in a social environment through language-rich activities. Teachers should spend time each day reading books aloud to their students, which helps with reading comprehension, letter recognition and print awareness. In addition to this, teachers can host puppet shows and talk about favorite books and stories. Preschool children can create journals to practice beginning printing, such as writing their names, and fill other pages with drawings. Teachers should also have a reading center where children can pick out picture books they enjoy and spend quiet time perusing them.

Introduce numbers and mathematics. Preschool teachers can plan many activities that teach the basic concepts of numbers and math. Manipulating and counting physical objects like colored tiles helps students relate them to written numbers. Putting items together and taking them apart is the foundation for learning addition and subtraction. Building blocks teach children about shapes and spatial relations such as above, behind, on top of, and so on. Make sure students can identify different shapes and why those shapes are called particular names. Talk about patterns and predictions.

<https://t.ly/XZ7Vb>

## FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



Here are some fabulous monster theme preschool activities and resources for planning your preschool monster theme.

PRINTABLE  
MONSTERS THEME  
LESSON PLANS

<https://t.ly/dwDw8>

## The Scaffolding Method in Early Childhood Education

### What Is Scaffolding?

When building, scaffolding is a temporary structure used to support a work crew and materials to aid in the construction, maintenance, and repair of buildings.

The philosophy is similar in early childhood education and works almost the same way to build independence in children.

Scaffolding works best when educators employ the method in different ways, including:

- Making suggestions
- Asking probing questions
- Introducing a prop
- Posing limited-answer questions
- Providing support
- Offering encouragement

<https://t.ly/rBDjZ>



## How To Teach Kids To Recognize Their Names

Top 20 activities to use with student names:

- Sort names by first letter
- Sort names by length (number of letters in the name)
- Use Bingo Dot markers to trace the first letter of child's name
- Rainbow-write names
- Make names with Wikki Stix
- Hunt for letters in your name in the sensory table
- Stamp names with ABC stamps
- Crayon resist watercolor names

<https://www.pre-kpages.com/names/>

## WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://t.ly/y8Br2>

<https://t.ly/dwDWz>

<https://t.ly/by5Ak>



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Early Childhood  
Recommended Practice  
Modules (RPMs)

The RPMs are free modules developed for early care and education, early intervention, and early childhood special education faculty and PD providers. Each module supports the use of one of seven of the DEC Recommended Practice topic areas (interaction, transition, environment, teaming & collaboration, family, instruction, and assessment). They are interactive, multimedia and can be easily accessed, downloaded, and embedded in part or whole. Each module includes learning objectives, activities, videos, assignments, dilemmas, and more. The components are designed for the flexible use of individual parts or whole sequences. An instructor area offers supports and learning guides for each module.

<https://rpm.fpg.unc.edu/> (homepage)

<https://rpm.fpg.unc.edu/groups/instructor-area>  
(instructor area)

<https://modules.fpg.unc.edu/rpm/Intro/> (Introduction)



**Discovery Center:** What is a Scientist? & Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons (introduce manipulatives)



**Art Center:** The Shape of Things & I Aint Gonna Paint No More (introduce the art easel)



**Pretend Center:** ABC Jobs & Mr. Cookie Baker



**Blocks Center:** Jack the Builder & When I Build with Blocks



**Library Center:** Lola at the Library & Chicka Chicka Boom Boom (introduce magnet letters)

<https://t.ly/xYeij>