



# BUILDING BLOCKS

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

September 2018

WELCOME BACK TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR.



Today is a great day to learn something new.



THE BEST CIRCLE TIME TIPS FOR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS



### Where should your circle time be?

Find a spot in your room that has enough room for all of your students to gather. We have a stool for each child to sit on, but mats work, too. (In the past we've used vinyl place mats.)

### How long should your circle time be?

We start our year with a short circle time, just long enough for a good morning song and a short story. We eventually add the weather and, once a week, sharing. Depending on how focused the preschoolers are on that particular day, we average around 10 minutes for our circle time. <https://goo.gl/RtpbdL>



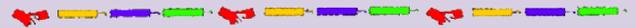
**CARA's Kit (Teacher's Version) Creating Adaptations for Routines and Activities**

CARA's Kit is designed for teachers and consultants who are involved in providing early care and education for children under age 6.

CARA's kit contains information on how to make adaptations for individuals or groups of children who are experiencing challenges during everyday routines and activities.

CARA's Kit also includes a link to resources for teachers!

<http://www.dec-sped.org/product-page/cara-s-kit>



### The Division for Early Childhood Recommended Practices – Pocket Guide

This hard copy version of the DEC Recommended Practices is designed to improve accessibility and dissemination of the DEC Recommended Practices. The DEC Recommended Practices provide guidance to practitioners and families about the most effective ways to improve the learning outcomes and promote the development of young children, birth through age 5, who have or are at-risk for developmental delays or disabilities. [Place an order here.](#)

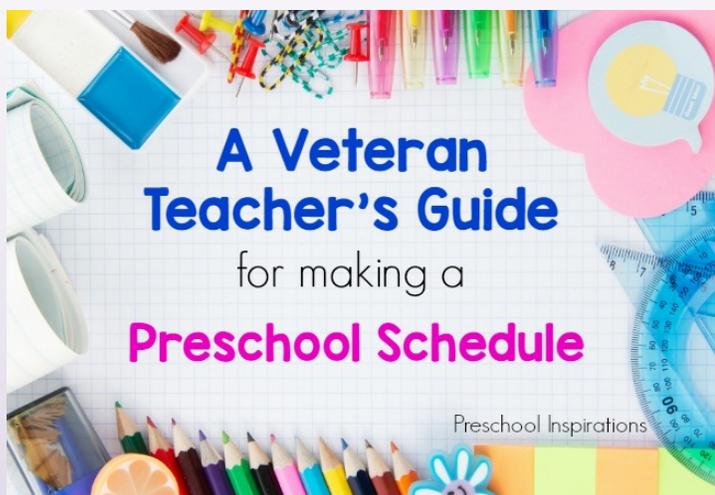
## FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



### Yogibo Mini

The Mini is the personal-sized bean bag chair designed to fit any room in the house. The Mini delivers all of the comfort and awesomeness of a full-sized Yogibo, at a fraction of the size. Its compact 3' x 3' x 2' size makes it perfect for small spaces such as bedrooms, reading nooks, and dorm rooms. The super-comfortable, durable, machine-washable cover and near-frictionless microbeads make the Mini contour to your body.

[http://www.perfectdaystore.com/item\\_486/Yogibo-Mini.htm](http://www.perfectdaystore.com/item_486/Yogibo-Mini.htm)



The key to my perfect schedule is providing predictability and flexibility. [Children learn the most when they are deep in play](#), so I must protect that time!

<https://preschoolinspirations.com/preschool-schedule/>

### 5 Preschool Skills to Teach with HOPSCOTCH

homeschoolpreschool.net



1. Numbers
2. Addition and Subtraction
3. Alphabet
4. Simple Words
5. Names

<https://homeschoolpreschool.net/5-ways-teach-preschoolers-hopscotch/>

You can also use masking tape to create an indoor hopscotch for your kids. Use masking tape to put number or letters inside the squares. You can also fill in the square with masking tape and use a marker to write inside the squares.

## WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://goo.gl/aY3w6G>

<https://goo.gl/Kdx3pg>

<https://goo.gl/rLiIEF>



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



- Watch a Training Video Time: 10 min  
Instantly level-up your knowledge about a specific topic. Training videos include tips for talking with families.
- Participate in a Webinar Time: 1 hr  
Develop strategies for working with families. Certificates of completion available.
- Take a Course Time: 3+ Hours  
Put in some professional development hours by taking an online course.

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

### Preschool social skills: Evidence-based tips for helping children succeed

*Why adults and older children are better than peers*  
Preschoolers can't offer each other the feedback they need to learn about emotions, conflict resolution, and self-control. They're all struggling with the same developmental disadvantages!

But adults -- and even older children -- are a different matter. They have a more extensive emotional and cognitive tool kit. They know how to behave appropriately, and they can use their insights to help teach preschoolers what they need to learn:

- how to cope with negative feelings
- how recognize emotions in others
- how to take the perspective of someone else
- how to express sympathy
- how to form and maintain friendships
- how to resolve conflicts without resorting to aggression
- how to offer help, make amends, and be forgiving

<https://goo.gl/bEhcqz>