



BUILDING BLOCKS

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

December 2018

PRECIOUS CHILDREN

CHINA AT A GLANCE | EARLY EDUCATION IN CHINA | DIVERSITY IN THE CLASSROOM
ABOUT THE SHOW | RESOURCES

DIVERSITY IN THE CLASSROOM

ACTIVITIES AND RELATED READINGS

CELEBRATING HOLIDAYS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

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NAEYC believes that decisions about what holidays to celebrate are best made together by teachers, parents, and children. Families and staff are more comfortable when both have expressed their views and understand how a decision has been reached. The important thing for all to remember is that when planning holiday activities, the rules of good practice continue to apply: are the activities meaningful to the children? Are their needs and interests being met? Is the activity a valuable use of children's time?

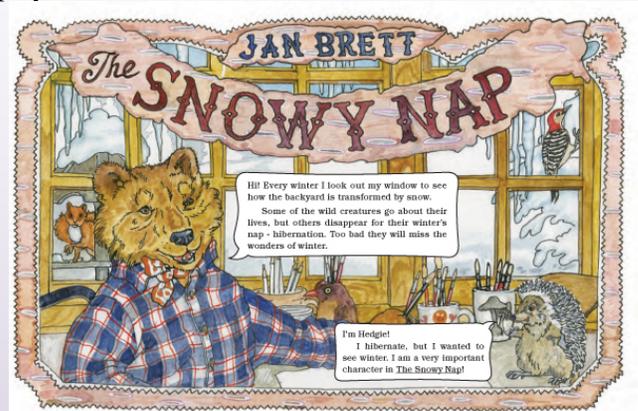
Here Are Some Signs of Good Practice in Celebrating Holidays:

- Parents and teachers ask themselves why children should learn about this holiday. Is it developmentally appropriate for those in the group? Why is it important to specific children and families?
- Activities are connected to specific children and families in the group. This helps children understand holiday activities in the context of people's daily lives. Children should have the chance to explore the meaning and significance of each holiday.
- Every group represented in the classroom is honored (both children and staff).
- Activities demonstrate the fact that not everyone in the same ethnic group celebrates holidays in the same way. Families may provide examples of their own unique traditions.
- Curriculum demonstrates respect for everyone's customs.

<https://goo.gl/43s5va>



A collection of projects and activities of books for kids, and classroom activities and lesson plans for teachers about particular subjects, curriculum areas, and themes. Books, Activities, Coloring Pages, Murals, Media, Video, Printable Cards, Games. Pictures from many of her books can be used for puppets and allow for students to role play stories.



<http://www.janbrett.com/index.html>



- All About Small Group Time – Free Printable Idea List
- Literacy Stews – A Fun Letter, Sound, Name, And Sight Word Game
- Free Editable Name Mats
- Counting Stews And Brews™
- 15 Classroom Organization Hacks
- Editable Center Signs
- Printing And Laminating Hacks Every Teacher Needs To Know

<https://pocketofpreschool.com/category/teaching-tricks/>

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



LITTLE BINS LITTLE HANDS

Watch fluffy slime being made! This video show our giant colorful fluffy slime, but all you need to do is leave out the color. The glitter would be fun! <https://goo.gl/7AVnZd>

6 Early Literacy Skills*

Six Early Literacy Skills Young children need a variety of skills to become successful readers. A panel of reading experts has determined that six specific early literacy skills become the building blocks for later reading and writing.

- Vocabulary
- Print Motivation
- Print Awareness
- Narrative Skills
- Letter Knowledge
- Phonological Awareness

<https://goo.gl/F3Wb8t>



Why Should We Limit Screen Time?

Too much screen time can have harmful effects on children.

• During the first two years of life, a child's brain and body experience important growth and development, and exposure to screen time detracts from important social interactions with care givers. • With continued exposure, including the preschool years, excess screen time is associated with language delays, obesity, attention problems and even aggression, especially if the content is violent.

- Screen time includes TV, videos, DVDs, computers, tablets, video games and handheld devices (e.g., smart phones).
- For children under 2 years of age, screen time includes any time spent watching shows or playing games (including active video games) on a screen.

What are the recommendations for screen time?

• No screen time (TV/video/DVD) for children under the age of 2. • No more than 1 to 2 hours per day of high-quality programming for children over the age of 2. This should be limited to no more than 30 minutes once per week in early childhood programs.

<https://goo.gl/1Vaq2b>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://goo.gl/XXYgmq>

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

<https://logicroots.com/MathBlog/tips-to-motivate-slow-learners/>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

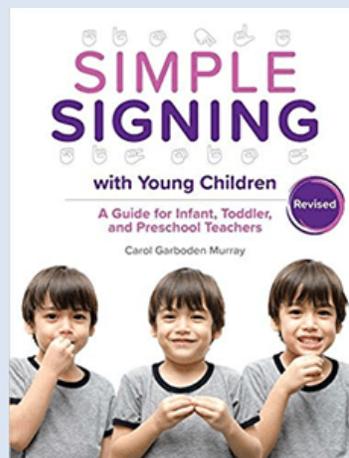


Working With Families of Children With Special Needs

Preschool Family Engagement

This lesson will highlight the ways in which you can play a significant role in supporting families of children with special needs at preschool. It will provide recommendations for effective collaboration with these families.

<https://www.virtuallabschool.org/preschool/family-engagement/lesson-4>



edWeb.net

12/17/2018: Sign Language, Songs and Felt Stories: Literacy Learning in Early Childhood

edWeb members can download a personalized CE certificate from their edWebinar transcript the day after the presentation.

<https://home.edweb.net/webinar/bookchats20181217/>



Teaching Students with Visual Impairments

- The Daily Schedule
- Morning Meeting
- Weather Check
- Early Literacy Experience
- Dramatic Play
- Block Center

<https://www.teachingvisuallyimpaired.com/early-childhood.html#>