

BUILDING BLOCKS

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

February 2020

The Importance of Consistency

Consistency is an important characteristic of the daily schedule. Young children feel more secure when they can predict the sequence of events and have some control over their day. They delight in reminding the teacher that “snack comes next” or telling a visitor that “now we go outside”. In addition, predictability provides children with a rudimentary sense of time, as they begin to learn what comes first in the day, second, next and last. A consistent schedule also helps build trust.

Consistency does not, however, preclude flexibility or spontaneity. A special occurrence can be reason enough to alter the daily routine. Your schedule should be developmentally appropriate. Waiting times should be kept to a minimum and adequate time allotted for putting on coats and hats, eating meals and snacks, and cleaning up. Work periods should be long enough to give children time to select materials and activities, and everyone get a chance to participate.

THE CREATIVE CURRICULUM®



GROWING IDEAS TIPSHEETS AND RESOURCES FOR GUIDING EARLY CHILDHOOD PRACTICES

Welcome to the growing ideas tipsheets and resources. This collection of resources was developed based on current evidence that quality inclusive care and education can only happen if there is a foundation of high-quality, regular education practices (sandall & schwartz, 2008). These materials offer early childhood and school age care professionals information on a variety of topics in the form of tipsheets, resource pages, and an expanded virtual toolkit.

These resources are free and can be used for educational purposes. Topics include: developmentally appropriate practice, universal design, behavior, assessment basics, and more. <https://ccids.umaine.edu/resources/ec-growingideas/>

Learning through Play Preschool children learn ideas through play that incorporate all of their senses. While they are having fun and learning necessary social patterns (being respectful of each other, taking turns, etc.) they are unaware that they’re acquiring educational knowledge. Physical activities, such as ball play, promotes hand-eye coordination and gross motor skills, writing games advance fine motor skills, card games help to encourage memory, and games involving books inspire an interest in reading and language. Preschool children take pleasure in playing actively with each other. They are masters of make-believe. They like to act out grown-up roles and create imaginary situations. Costumes and equipment that help them in their pretend worlds are important at this stage. Some of the many possibilities include pretend money, play food, a toy cash register or telephone, a make-believe village, fort, circus, farm, gas station or restaurant, a puppet theater and play with dolls and doll furniture. Trucks, cars, planes, trains, boats and tractors are all fun preschool toys. It is common for preschool children to develop strong attachments to favorite toys, expressing feelings to a special doll or teddy bear.

Throughout the preschool years children will:

- Gain confidence and self-esteem
- Develop listening skills
- Take turns and follow directions
- Develop social skills
- Learn academics through play

http://www.brighttots.com/preschool_toys.html
t.ly/p8Nik



Enhancing Learning through Play: A developmental perspective for early years settings (Volume 2) 2nd Edition

by Christine Macintyre

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

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FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

"Don't forget to get a TARP!!!"---finding sensory play can get out of hand sometimes! It can take a while to clean up the spaghetti noodles off the floor that the kiddos had so much fun with!!



Encourage Parent Participation in the Classroom

Teachers may:

- Create a welcoming atmosphere by having special “parent” aprons and name tags and introducing the parent to the class.
- Have something always ready for parents to do. Include both regular volunteers and last-minute drop-ins. Keep an index card file of suggestions or post a “wish list” on a wall, with ideas, such as the following: —Help individual children. —Prepare materials for projects. —Help with transitions from one activity to the next. —Lead a small-group activity. —Participate with the students in activities

Encourage Parent Participation Outside the Classroom

Parents may:

- Coordinate a fund-raiser for a special piece of equipment or a special field trip.
- Prepare materials for a special project.
- Coordinate field trips.
- Coordinate classroom parties.
- Put together a class directory.
- Coordinate special events, such as enrichment programs.

Encourage Parent Involvement at Home with the Child

Parents may:

- Participate in homework activities.
- Follow through on instructions from the teacher.
- Consistently provide information and feedback in a daily journal.

Suggest Other Ideas for Parent Participation

Parents may:

- Serve as chaperones on field trips to community events, festivals, and the like.
- Help at special events, programs, children’s art exhibits, and music demonstrations at school.
- Go on student-led tours of the classroom and view student work during Open House.
- Tell students on Career Day what parents typically do at their jobs.
- Observe the child in the classroom on Parent Observation Day (at the beginning or end of a semester).
- Discuss the child’s progress with the teacher.
- Join the School Site Council.
- Join the PTA.
- Attend Parent Education Nights.

Source: *Handbook on Family Involvement in Early Childhood Special Education Programs*. Sacramento: California Department of E

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

t.ly/NMLGy
t.ly/0Mpb3
t.ly/KMxD1



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual Conference for Pre-K, TK, Kindergarten, and First Grade Educators

Fri, Feb 28 – Sat, Feb 29

300 E Green St, Pasadena, CA

"Motivation for Building the Foundations for Our Future Leaders"

The Annual Conference for Pre-K, TK, Kindergarten, and First Grade Educators is a gathering of preschool professionals, pre-k, kindergarten, first grade, young children, teachers, parents and principals and trainers and it will be dedicated to the education of young children.

<https://10times.com/california-kindergarten-conference>



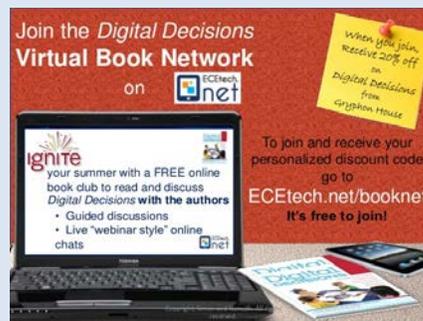
The 10th Annual Early Childhood STEM Conference: Playing About with STEM

The Children's Center at Caltech is hosting it's Annual ECSTEM Conference in sunny Southern California! The ECSTEM Conference is intended to promote and increase awareness of the importance of introducing STEM education in early childhood (birth through eight years).

Friday, February 28, 2020 - Saturday, February 29, 2020
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

The Pasadena Hilton, 168 South Los Robles Ave
Pasadena, California 91101, 626-577-1000

t.ly/KMPN1



<http://www.ecetech.net/booknet/>

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