BUILDING BLOCKS
A Newsletter for Teachers Working with Preschool Educational Equity For All

January 2017

7 Teaching Strategies to Consider for Your ECE Classroom

1. Logo/symbol labeling
One way to promote everyday vocabulary is by having students verbally label common brands and symbols, according to Dr. Elaine Fogel Schneider, director of [Touchtime International](#). She explains that translating from picture to word helps in language development.

2. Sound recognition & matching
This activity will require a few large letters cut out of cardboard several small objects nearby that begin with those letters. For example, if your letters are "B" and "F," you might have a pile of buttons and feathers. Start by having the child say the sound that the letter makes. Then, encourage the child to find an object beginning with the same sound and paste it to the letter.

3. Photo flashcards of social scenarios
Helen Meissner is an ECE teacher and recommends creating social flashcards using photographs of your students in real-world situations. These help foster discussions about how to treat others, working together and handling conflict.

4. Shared reading
This is one of the most effective teaching strategies for early literacy skills, according to Susan Berkowitz, a speech language pathologist who frequently works with young children. She recommends reading the same book multiple times, encouraging students to focus on a new aspect each time. Asking open-ended questions while reading and doing follow-up activities encourages children to absorb new information each time.

5. Focusing on the process not the product
"Allowing for art to be more about the process and less about the product opens doors to learning in the creativity and arts area," Meissner says. She engages her students by teaching them about the medium they're working with, how they can use it and how to care for the art supplies. Not only does each student learn about the process, but he or she also focus less on comparing their final products to their classmate's.

6. Introduce cyber skills
"When children leave the classroom environment they are often handed tablets and smartphones that some parents may unfortunately use as digital babysitters," says Ben Halpert, founder of [Cyber Kids](#). He urges teachers to start informing children about topics such as cyber ethics, security, privacy and managing screen-time. Halpert's team has designed free lesson plans and activities for teachers who want to help children begin thinking about how to appropriate approach the online world.

7. Get the senses involved in science
"Getting [kids] to be still for a moment and focus on what they are discovering helps you learn what they know," Meissner says. She stresses the importance of encouraging students to use all five senses in science and observation activities.

Meissner explains, for example, when planting their class garden they discuss how the soil feels and smells and what colors we see in the soil. They talk about how the different plants will taste and what they will look like as they grow from a seed into a plant.

http://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/education/blog/7-teaching-strategies-for-ece-classroom/

https://goo.gl/l0VcvD
Courtesy our friend Pam Bowman.

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

D.I.Y. Moon Sand (or Cloud Dough)

MOON SAND:
8 cups of flour
1 cup of baby oil.
Really soft and easy to clean up!

SIMPLY kinder
Developmentally Appropriate, Academic, & Fun

Review your class rules every single day!

SIMPLY KINDER

WHY I TOOK MY BEHAVIOR CHART OFF MY WALL!

http://www.simplykinder.com/why-i-took-my-behavior-chart-off-my-wall/

123 Homeschool 4 Me
Ideas to help homeschoolers, parents, and teachers make learning FUN!

Capital & Lowercase **ALPHABET PARKING LOT**

Alphabet Shower Curtain Rings

ALPHABET PING-PONG DROP!

http://www.123homeschool4me.com/2014/08/17-amazing-alphabet-activities.html

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PENN FOSTER
EARLY CHILDHOOD WEBINAR SERIES

Weekly Early Childhood Webinars
Penn Foster is pleased to offer Weekly Early Childhood Professional, Career Development, and Student Success Webinars! Our webinars are complimentary virtual sessions for early childhood students and professionals across the globe. The purpose for our webinars is to connect, collaborate, create, and improve early childhood practices. For each live presentation attended, unless otherwise noted, you will receive a certificate to share in your portfolio or to hang in your early childhood classroom/office! https://community.pennfoster.edu/docs/DOC-59743

Sensory table ideas - sensory filler list, sensory tools list plus how to make it meaningful play in your early childhood classroom.

Sensory Table Ideas

- Sand
- Water
- Soapy Water
- Ice
- Dirt
- Noodles
- Flour
- Oatmeal

- Bird Seed
- Beans
- Rice
- Noodles
- Chick Peas
- Dry Cereal
- Goop
- Play Dough
- Real Dough
- Cotton Balls
- Plastic Grass
- Straws
- Ribbon
- Shredded Paper
- Pom Poms

- Cut Straws
- Fish Gravel
- Legos
- Small Blocks
- Marble Words
- Magnets
- Small World
- Leaves
- Sticks
- Mulch
- Rocks
- Seeds
- Pine Cones
- Flowers
- Weeds

pocket of PRESCHOOL

http://www.pocketofpreschool.com/2015/07/sensory-table.html