



BUILDING BLOCKS

A Newsletter for Teachers Working with Preschool Educational Equity For All

January 2016

Learning through Play: Preschool Conflict Resolution

They're Not Born Knowing

Adults are fond of saying "use your words" when fighting, screaming and crying breaks out. It is great advice, but preschoolers don't come pre-loaded with those words. We need to teach them.

What do you do when someone hurts you? What if you want something someone else has? What if they take something from you? How do you handle all the giant emotions you feel?

These are the questions preschoolers need to answer for themselves with our help.

Giving Them the Words

It starts with labeling feelings. Find picture books on the topic and read to the kids about the range of human feeling. Have them show you an angry face and a sad face. Enable them to describe what's going on inside.

Everybody Needs Practice

We need to anticipate potential conflicts in the classroom and on the playground. Children may not respect each other's space while waiting in line. Someone will want to push his or her way to the front of the line. Kids may crash into each other by accident. Two kids will want the same toy. Before these situations occur, your students can practice the right thing to do.

Have a Conflict Resolution Plan

No matter how well you prepare them, problems will occur with your students. Think about a fair and consistent method for reaction when kids run up to you crying and pointing fingers.

<http://www.brighthubeducation.com/teaching-preschool/128831-preschool-conflict-resolution-through-play/>



SNACK TIME ORAL MOTOR SENSORY ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

The best way to give your oral sensory seeking kid the oral input they need is to provide a variety of textures and flavors at snack and meal times. Be sure to offer new foods on a regular basis. Here are some oral motor activities that can be done during snack time or meal time.

1. Eat hard foods (e.g., carrots, apple, radishes, etc.)
2. Eat chewy foods (e.g., celery, beef jerky, marshmallows, dried fruit, etc.)
3. Eat crunchy foods (e.g., nuts, crackers, dry cereal, toast, etc.)
4. Drink a frozen drink like a slush or slurpee
5. Drink through a narrow and/or twisty straw
6. Drink a thick liquid through a straw (e.g., milkshake, applesauce, pudding, etc.)
7. Make an edible necklace with cereal or candy
8. Chew gum
9. Eat foods with strong flavors
10. Suck on hard candies
11. Eat cold foods like popsicles or ice cream

PLAY TIME ORAL MOTOR SENSORY ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

There are lots of simple oral motor activities that you can do without specific toys. A lot of these suggestions work great for when you're in the car, waiting in line at the grocery store, in the classroom, etc.

<http://www.andnextcomes1.com/2015/06/oral-motor-activities-for-kids-printable.html?m=1>

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



Sensory Activities: Edible Water Beads

Water beads or aqua beads are such a fun sensory material. Introducing “water-beads” look-alike BOBA pearls. Sensory activity with water beads look-alike that

are safe to eat! If you are new to boba pearls, check out **this** article for more information. They are **tapioca balls** and are used in a popular Taiwanese drink – bubble tea. <http://www.kidsplaybox.com/sensory-activities-edible-water-beads/>

Preschool Math Grows Up: Tips for Teachers

By Kristin Stanberry

1. Building an effective preschool math program

As your school reviews and retools its math program to meet current requirements, you and your director may want to ensure your program is aligned with current best practices. These include:

- ✓ **Making math real** by teaching it in the context of preschoolers' everyday lives--at school, at home, and in the community. Math doesn't exist only on paper, a chalkboard, or a whiteboard; preschoolers learn math best by doing hands-on projects and activities and being reminded how the math they're learning "doing" is part of their everyday lives.
 - ✓ **Teaching the many aspects of math:** "number sense," geometry (patterns and shapes), measurement, the language of math, and spatial relations.
 - ✓ **Teaching math across the curriculum** rather than as an isolated subject. Blend math concepts into language arts, music, art, and science projects.
 - ✓ **Observing, documenting and sharing progress** about individual students' math competency and challenges with their parents.
 - ✓ **Individualizing math instruction to students' needs**, building on what they already know.
 - ✓ Find out if the math program and materials you use are **based on peer-reviewed research that has proven to be effective.**
2. Staying on top of best practices in math instruction
 3. Screening for math awareness and skills in early learners
 4. The influence of culture, community, and socio-economic status
 5. Activities to help preschoolers gain math literacy
 6. Partnering with parents
 7. A chance for positive change

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://www.fixby.org/kgfl/primary/fixbypri/web/early-years-transition-guidance-booklet-2013.pdf>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/27/magazine/27tools-t.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

<http://www.therhythmtree.com/video-blog/entry/music-therapist-shows-how-to-use-music-and-puppets-to-tackle-math>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People.™

Watch Me! Celebrating Milestones and Sharing Concerns

As an early care and education provider, you play a critical role in the health and wellbeing of children. You are also very well positioned to help identify children who might need extra help in their development. This FREE, online training course, Watch Me! Celebrating Milestones and Sharing Concerns, helps you fulfill this role by providing tools and best practices for monitoring the development of children in your care and talking about it with their parents.

In this 1-hour, 4-module course, you will learn:

- Why monitoring children's development is important
- Why you have a unique and important role in developmental monitoring
- How to easily monitor each child's developmental milestones
- How to talk with parents about their child's development

Continuing Education (CE) credit is available. You must complete all 4 modules, each quiz, and a final evaluation to qualify.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/watchmetraining/index.html>



<http://www.thesensoryspectrum.com/fine-motor-toys-tools/>