

Developmentally Appropriate Practices

Preschoolers (3 - 5 years)

Environment: Inclusive of indoor and outdoor areas

- safe
- clean
- toys/materials displayed on open, low shelving
- areas for the following types of learning centers or space for children to play with the following types of materials:
 - dramatic play
 - blocks
 - art: coloring, painting, drawing, gluing, etc.
 - writing materials
 - books
 - sand/water
 - music and movement
 - manipulatives: puzzles, pegs, small construction items
 - science
- large motor area: throwing, riding, climbing, jumping, running
- separate cot/mat for individual sleeping
- private, getaway spaces
- soft areas

Activities/ Materials

- riding toys
- balls/bean bags to throw
- climbing equipment
- books
- blocks - different shapes, textures, weights, colors, sizes plus vehicles, animals, people, etc.
- music and movement with instruments
- dramatic play materials - clothing, theme items (house, doctor's office, grocery store, etc.)
- manipulatives: puzzles, beads, buttons, pegs, etc.
- art supplies: various kinds of paints, crayons, markers, chalk, various kinds of paper, play dough, glue, paste, collage materials, scissors, etc.
- writing supplies: pens, pencils, paper, stapler, paper clips, envelopes, tracing letters and numbers, etc
- sand, water and supplies to use with them.

Characteristics of the Adults

- warm, nurturing personality
- tolerates movement/noise
- models appropriate behavior
- reads/talks/listens to child
- accepts different caregiving methods and techniques
- recognizes and accepts differences
- willing to learn
- reliable
- healthy
- understands the emerging need for the preschooler to establish friendships and have time to explore the environment

Schedule

- time for self-care activities: washing hands, dressing, brushing teeth, serving and feeding self, toileting
- time to play individually, or in a small group, choosing toys/materials with which to play
- minimum amount of organized activity time in a large group - limited to eating, group time ("circle time" with singing, stories, etc.), sleeping and outside play
- daily outdoor time
- parents are welcome at any time