

Week 3 Reading Assignment

Planning for Group Times With Materials



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Planning for Group Times With Materials

Originating Idea:

Think about your children's interests and abilities. Plan a group experience around one of the following:

- Children's interests and abilities
- New materials and actions
- Favorite materials and actions
- Key Developmental Indicators (KDIs) and/or the Infant and Toddler COR Advantage items
- Events currently meaningful to children

Materials:

- Specify what you will need.
- Gather enough materials for each child and yourself ahead of time.
- Prepare backup material(s), if needed.

Possible Key Developmental Indicators:

Anticipate key developmental indicators you might observe.

Planning for Group Times With Materials (continued)

Beginning: Begin with an opening statement that simply describes the materials or gives the children an open-ended idea to get started. Then give each child their own set of materials. Choose only one way to begin the activity:

- Describe the materials.
- Connect the materials to children's previous play.
- Tell a short, open-ended story connected to the materials.
- Focus on a content area (KDI/COR)



Planning for Group Times With Materials (continued)

Middle: Think about how children will use materials and how adults will scaffold children at different developmental levels.

What will children do?

- How might each child use the materials according to their developmental abilities?
- How might they communicate?
- How long will each child stay with the activity?

How will adults scaffold children's learning?

- Offer materials. "What can you do with _____?"
- Respect children's choices and ideas.
- Move from child to child.
- Watch what individual children do with the materials.

- Listen to what children say.
- Interpret children's actions and language.
- Using your own set of materials, imitate or copy what you see children doing.
- Comment briefly, specifically on children's actions.
- Bring out backup materials as needed.

End:

- Let children's actions guide you in bringing group time to an end.
- Give toddlers a warning that group time is coming to an end.
- Use a choice-time approach to clean up.

Planning for Group Times With Materials (continued)

Follow Up

- Think about how children can use the materials at other times of the day.
- Say where the materials will be placed for children to find, if applicable.

