

Let's Read, Think, and Learn

Learning Activities to Use All Year

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Help Children Read, Think, and Learn



Making the Most of Materials

Teach children about new classroom materials, learning centers, and activities. Take time to explain, demonstrate, and model how you want children to use materials or learning centers. Have children role-play using materials and putting them away. If you have several new math games, introduce them one at a time on different days. Teaching children how to use materials answers questions and communicates your expectations. When you take time to demonstrate, model, and role-play, materials are used properly. If you have learning centers or materials that are not being used properly, put them away for a few weeks and then introduce them to the class as if they were “new.” With proper use of materials, instructional time is maximized and the classroom runs smoothly.



Successful Learners

Young learners need opportunities to work with the whole class, in small groups, with partners, and on their own. To be successful learners, children need skills of cooperation, organization, and self-management. These “beyond the basics” skills help children succeed inside and outside the classroom.



Cooperative Skills

- Learning to function cooperatively as group members and group leaders
- Learning to use kind words, to take turns, and to follow classroom routines and rules



Organizational Skills

- Accepting responsibility for keeping track of learning materials, keeping desks organized, following schedules, setting priorities, and meeting deadlines.



Self-Management Skills

Exercising self-discipline and making responsible choices about behaviors are imperative. When children are cooperative and responsible, learning time is maximized and the classroom is a positive place to work and learn.

Help your students be organized at home as well as at school. Encourage children to keep a box, basket, or plastic tub at home labeled “Take to School.” Everything they need to take to school goes in the box, from homework to permission slips. Each school-age child in the household needs a “Take to School” box of his or her own.

**SuperStar
Teacher
Tip**

Time to Share

Children love to share. There are many creative ways to give children opportunities to share with their classmates. Save valuable instructional time by having children share with partners or in groups.

Sharing Partners

Assign children to sharing partners. Change partners weekly! At sharing time, children sit with their partners and share. In less than ten minutes, every child will have shared with his or her partner.

Sharing Groups

Children participate in Sharing Groups of three or four children. At sharing time, all groups meet simultaneously. Children take turns sharing. Children can take turns as group leaders. Change sharing groups every three or four weeks.

Sharing Days

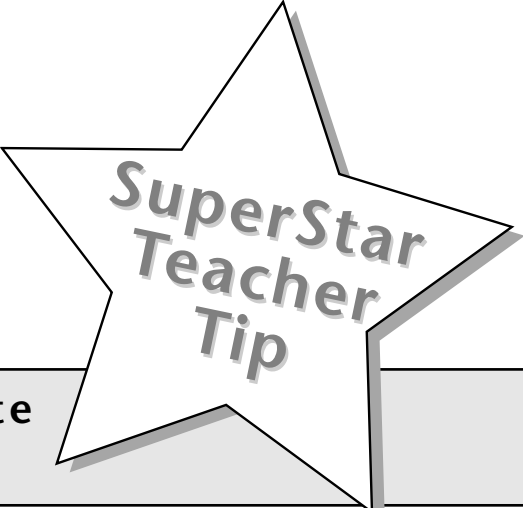
Divide the class into five sharing groups. Each group has a day when its members share with the class during sharing time. At the end of the week, everyone has had a turn.

Themes for Sharing

Occasionally, it adds interest to select a special focus for sharing time. During one week, children can share their favorite books; another week, they can tell about favorite characters; and at another time they can share nonfiction books they've enjoyed. The focus for sharing can also relate to social studies and science themes.

Sharing Toys

Designate one week at the beginning of the year as "Toy Sharing Week." With the exception of "Toy Sharing Week," toys may not be shared at school.



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It's fun when teachers participate in sharing!