



Pottstown Early Action for Kindergarten Readiness
Mission: Every child in Pottstown will enter Kindergarten ready to learn and achieve

PEAK Classroom Connections

PEAK Classroom Connections: Creating a professional learning community for the early learning teachers in Pottstown to share ideas, improve instructional practices and implement researched-based best practices in the delivery of quality early learning experiences



October 2008

New and Improved Website

Next time you are browsing the net, surf on over to our newly expanded website. We have a whole new design to provide you and your families with more information. You can also check out upcoming events on the calendar section as well as lots of Fall ideas to implement in your classroom! Let us know if you have any suggestions that we can imple-

ment to enhance your web browsing experience.



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PEAK Mini-Grant Applications

Remember applications are due to Emily Baddeley by November, 1, 2008.

Other Websites to Check Out

www.drjean.org (lots of ideas for the classroom as well as songs)

www.dltk-kids.com

(felt board activities)

www.perpetualpreschool.com

(classroom ideas)

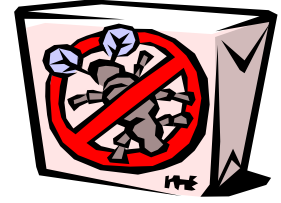
www.preschoolrainbow.org (lots of fingerplays, nursery rhymes and songs)

www.ecetrainers.com/toolbox_archive.html (from the great Deb Curtis and Margie Carter)

www.makinglearningfun.com (lots of theme based ideas)

www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/ (great ideas for children's social emotional development)

Tips to Prevent Poisonings



Household and Chemical Products

Store food and household and chemical products in separate areas.

Read and follow directions on household and chemical products before using them.

Never sniff containers to determine what is inside.

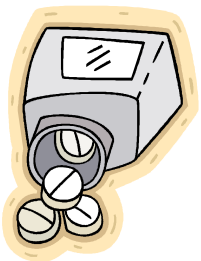
Turn on fans and open windows when using household and chemical products.

Never mix household and chemical products together. A poisonous gas may be created with mixing.

Medicine

Read and follow directions on the label before taking any medications. Contact your doctor or pharmacist with any questions.

Be aware of potential drug interactions. Some medicines interact dangerously with food or other medicines. Your doctor should be made aware of all medications you are currently taking.



Old and outdated medications should be flushed down the toilet.

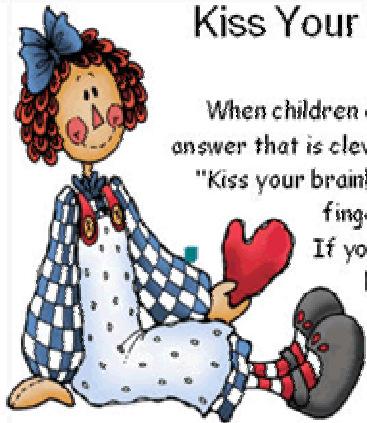
Never share prescription medications. Medicines should only be taken by the person prescribed and for the reason prescribed.

If you have a poisoning emergency call 1-800-222-1222

Contributed by Kathy Perry

Source: American Association of Poison Control Centers

Kiss Your Brain/Kiss Your Heart



When children answer a question with an answer that is clever, correct, or creative say, "Kiss your brain!" Model how to kiss your fingertips and touch your head. If you see a child doing something kind, use the same cheer and say, "Kiss your heart!" Kiss your fingertips and touch your heart.

This can be used throughout the day with children when you "catch" them doing something special

Sign Language Applause



Teach your children how to applaud in sign language. They do so by raising both hands in the air and rotating them back and forth quickly.

Use this at circle time after a child gives an answer, or after reading a story

Firecracker



Hold your palms together in front of you as if praying. Make a sizzling sound (Ssssss) as you wiggle your palms up in the air like a firecracker going off. Clap them above your head, then wiggle your fingers around and down like the sparkles coming from a firecracker. Make an "Ahhhhh" sound like a crowd watching a firecracker go off. Do a GIANT firecracker, a medium-sized firecracker, and a tiny firecracker.

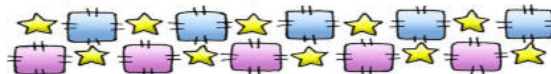
Snap, Crackle, Pop

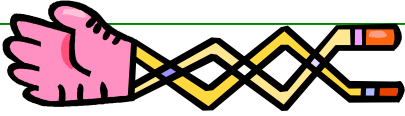
This cheer is done by snapping your fingers (snap), rubbing your hands together (crackle), and clapping your hands once (pop). You may have to say the words the first time so the children will understand what you're doing.



Catch a Star

Tell children to think of something kind they did, something new they learned, or something that made them feel proud. Tell them: "Reach up (stretch hand up in the air), grab a star (pretend to grab a star), and put it in your heart (put your hand near your heart)." This works well as a cheer for the end of the day before children go home.





Extending Centers

You can introduce new items into centers to add extensions, stimulate children's creativity or enhance learning. These ideas don't need to be necessarily used as small group learning activities. These are especially helpful for those children who are getting bored with the classroom and need additional stimulation.

Art:

Paint an autumn mural using items from nature as paintbrushes. Gather tree branches, pine cones, leaves, grass, nuts, and other objects. Lay a large piece of butcher paper on the ground and use the items to paint with. If you are feeling adventurous, add the items to the art center and see what children do with them, they might surprise you with some creative ideas.

Make hole art. Have children punch a design on a white piece of paper and glue onto dark paper to see the pattern. This is also a great fine motor activity.

Put your scraps to use instead of throwing them away. Leave them in a scrap bin for children to practice cutting, or use in collages.

Collect a wide variety of round lids and caps. Pour shallow amounts of paint into meat trays. Cut a large circle out of butcher paper and have children paint as many circles as possible. To extend this on a different day have children help collect items of other

shapes (rectangles, triangles, etc) and use those to paint in the same manner

Math:

Extension cord

Floor Graphs- you can make a large classroom graph with a shower curtain or plastic table cloth which you can mark off with blue painters tape. You can have children graph themselves for any number of categories. You can also graph physical items- have children bring in stuffed animals and graph bears and dogs, graph fruits and vegetables, graph items found in the classroom by shape, etc.

Sorting: Have many different objects for children to sort. They can begin sorting by one attribute (size or shape or color). After sorting has been introduced lay many different objects out and encourage children to create their own sorting criteria and record their findings. They may come up with some interesting categories. You can have children sort household objects by what they are made of—metal, plastic wood, etc.

Create an interactive bulletin board centered around math- this can be a center choice. If working on one to one correspondence use acorns or other small cutouts and have children match them one to one. If working on number recognition have the numbers 1-5 on each leaf and have the children attach the correct number of acorns.