

SUGGESTIONS FOR HELPING PRESCHOOL CHILDREN LEARN LIFE SKILLS

INDEPENDENCE

- Arrange materials so that they are accessible to children without adult assistance.
- Give assistance when needed, but do not intervene unnecessarily in situations such as dressing and undressing, clean-up, eating and serving food.
- Select and use equipment that children can operate independently.
- Arrange furniture and materials so that children work independently as well as in groups.
- Do not interrupt a child who is constructively occupied.

POSITIVE SELF IMAGE

- Take time to listen to children.
- Respond to children's questions.
- Give praise freely when justified.
- Set up activities which stimulate differentiated individual responses.
- Receive their parents with warmth and respect.

INTELLECTUAL STIMULATION

- Ask questions which provoke thoughtful responses and problem-solving (e.g., comparing, contrasting, analyzing, summarizing, imagining, feeling).
- Use daily life experiences and materials to develop concepts (e.g., relates learning to immediate environment, mathematics concepts by use of familiar objects, science concepts through natural and physical materials).
- Introduce a wide variety of learning resources.
- Respond to children's questions, suggestions, and comments in ways which demonstrate that he is knowledgeable.

ENCOURAGE CREATIVITY

- Accept and appreciate divergent and unexpected responses.
- Provide materials and encourage children to use them in individualistic rather than in prescribed ways.
- Read and accept imaginative stories.
- Use music, dance and other arts to encourage individual responses.

FOSTER PEER RELATIONSHIPS

- Provide activities that stimulate interactions of children with each other and with adults in a variety of roles.
- Find ways to involve isolated children in group activities without using pressure or being directive.
- Use materials that require interaction of more than one child.
- Help children to discover and use positive ways of interacting without resorting to aggression
- Provide activities which meet individual needs for privacy and independence.

SUPPORT EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Allow for emotional conflict and deal with conflict situations without being judgmental.
- Model healthy responses.
- State suggestions or directions in a positive form.
- Give the child choices that are all acceptable to you.
- Speak softly and stand close to the child. You are the model.
- Be positive.
- Reinforce your words by your behavior. Look serious when you say “No.” Smile when you praise.
- Many children respond better to a hug than to a lot of words.
- Be consistent with limits.
- Be alert to everything that goes on in your room. Have eyes in the back of your head.
- Communicate
- Prevent issues.