

Wonderful Explorations in Our CLASS

Dr. Cynthia Booker
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Early Childhood Coach

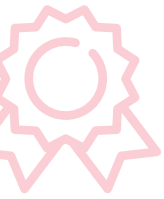
mdek12.org



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Office of Early Childhood





1

ALL Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas



2

EVERY Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career



3

EVERY Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program

EVERY School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

4



EVERY Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes

5



EVERY School and District is Rated “C” or Higher

6



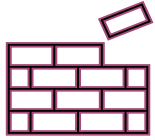
VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens



MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community



Blocks

Activity: Building Block Towers

ELS.SL.PK4.1A

ELA.L.PK.4.6

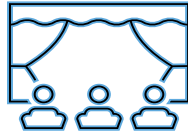
M.MD.PK.4.1

M.G.PK4.5

PD.FM.PK4.4

PD.SHS.PK4.5

SS.FC.PK4.1



Dramatic Play

Activity: Caring for Babies

ELA.RI.PK4.7

ELA.SL.PK4.2

M.CC.PK.4.5

PD.FM.PK4.6

PD.SHS.PK4.1

SS.FC.PK.4.8



Science Center

Activity: Fasteners

S.PS.PK4.1

S.T.PK4.1

ELA.RL.PK4.2

ELA.SL.PK4.3

M.MD.PK4.3

PD.SHS.PK4.5



Sensory Table

Activity: Water Wheel

ELA.W.PK4.1b

ELA.SL.PK4.1a

M.MD.PK4.2

PD.SHS.PK4.1

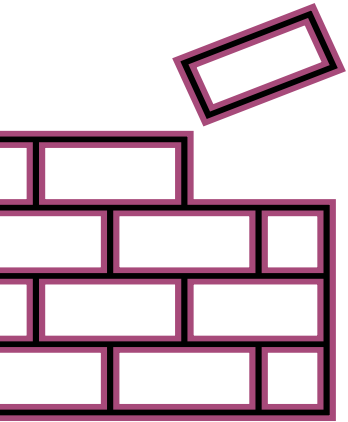
PD.FM.PK4.4

S.PS.PK4.4

Blocks

In the Block Center Children Learn to:

- Develop concepts
- Social skills development
- Exploration of materials
- Play games with their own made-up rules
- Make their plan and express their intentions; solving problems that with materials and peers
- Learn about spatial relations, logic and number concepts and they sort and compare objects and people; similarities and differences

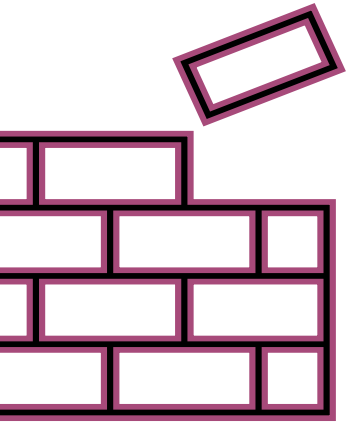


Related Links on the Web

Podcast: Elevating Early Childhood

Block Center

<https://teaching-trailblazers.simplecast.com/episodes/5-easy-steps-to-setting-up-a-successful-preschool-block-center>

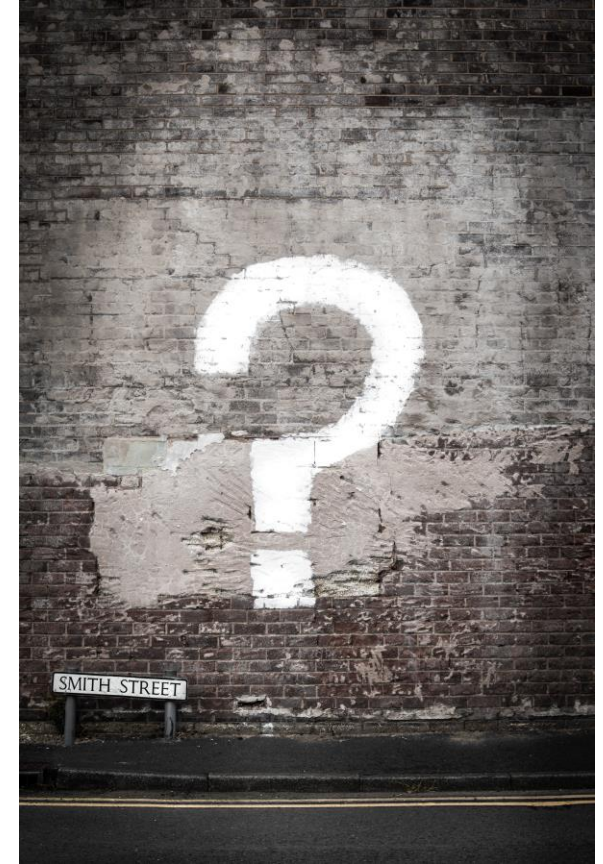


Activity: Building a Tower

- Books:
 - When I Build with Blocks by Niki Alling
 - Building with Blocks by Meg Gaertner
 - Peter's Chair by Ezra Jack Keats
- Essential Questions:
 - What does it mean to be a member of a family?
 - How do families care for each other?

Open-Ended Questions to Ask in the Block Center:

- Tell me about your structure?
- How did you decide to put all those blocks together?
- What if ...?
- What made you choose...?
- Can you tell me about ...?
- What do you think ...?
- How would you ...?
- What happens when ...?



Use Parallel Talk (describe what the child is doing):

You are adding two rectangular blocks to the top of your tower.

Use Self Talk (describe what you are doing):

I am going to try and balance this cylindrical block on this square block.

Expand Children's Comments:

Child: *I have a block.* Teacher: *You are putting the triangular block next to the rectangular block.*

Model Social Skills (sharing and turn taking):

Lily, can you please hand me three cylindrical blocks like this one?

Encourage Problem Solving:

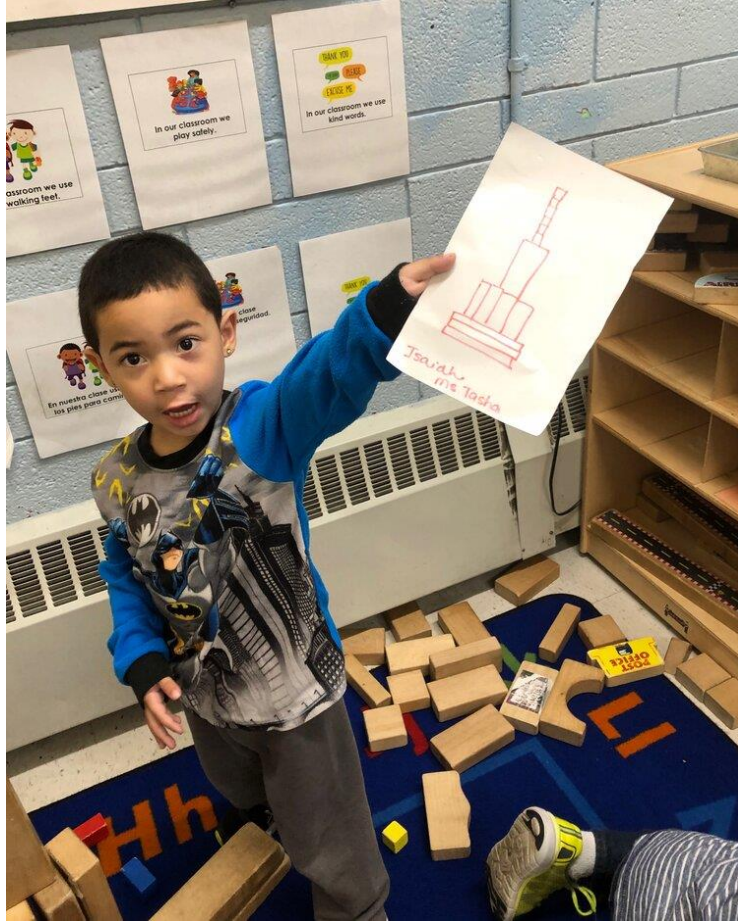
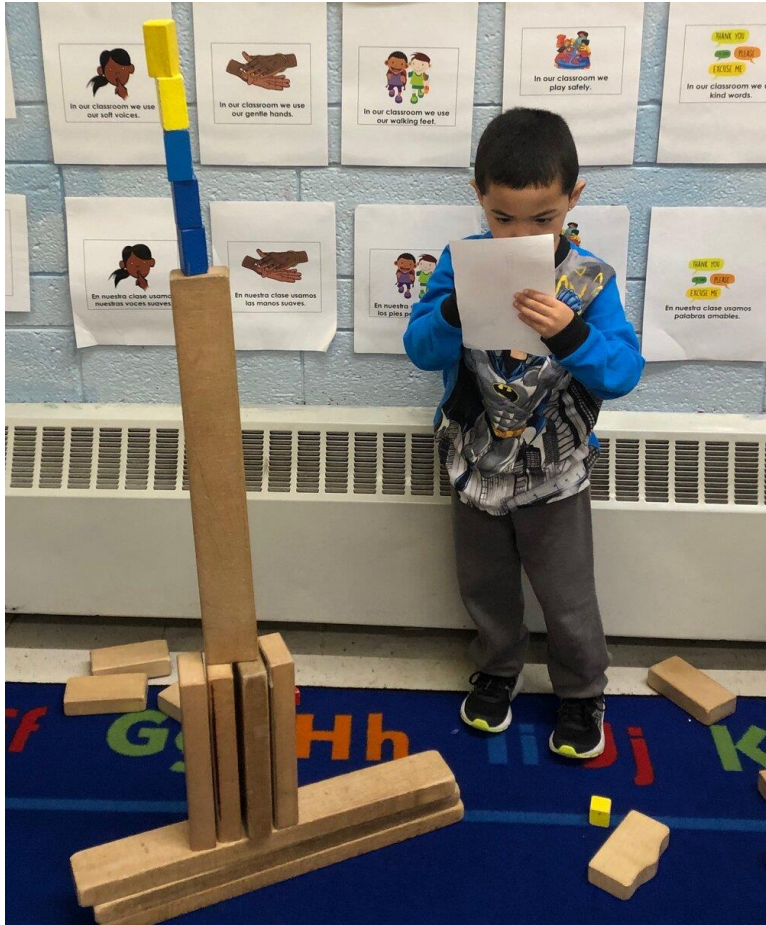
Kendra, please don't bump into Daniel's tower. If you want to get by, please walk around his work carefully.





Photo courtesy of Carol Nursery School, Cleveland, Ohio

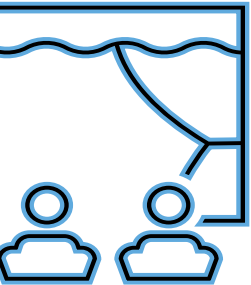
- Assorted blocks
 - Wood blocks
 - Hollow Blocks
- Open-ended materials
 - Cardboard Tubes
 - Boxes
- People
- Cars/Trucks
- Maps
- Construction Photos: Sites & Workers



Dramatic Play

In the Dramatic Play Center Children are Learning to:

- Understand and experience the adult world through imitation
- Express feelings and emotions
- Understand their world better Imitate grown-ups thus experience a sense of power
- Develop their creativity and imagination
- Practice different roles
- Use abstract thinking
- Explore
- Solve problems
- Make plans and carry them out
- Pretend and imitate
- Work with others
- Act out familiar roles and re-enact events they have experience



Related Links on the Web

Podcast: Elevating Early Childhood

Dramatic Play

<https://teaching-trailblazers.simplecast.com/episodes/how-to-create-a-successful-dramatic-play-learning-center-in-preschool#>



Activity: Caring for Babies

- Books
 - Getting a New Baby by Jeri Cipriano
 - Oonga Boonga by Frieda Wishinsky
- Essential Question(s):
 - What does it mean to be a member of a family?
 - How do families care for each other?

- Why do babies need special furniture?
- Why can't babies care for themselves?
- What if ...?
- What made you choose...?
- Can you tell me about ...?
- What do you think ...?
- How would you ...?
- What happens when ...?





- Baby Bottles
- Baby food containers
- Bibs
- Burping cloths
- Baby dolls
- Baby furniture
- Books



Science

In the Science Center Children are Learning to:

- Ask and answer questions
- Regulate their emotions
- Interact with peers
- Push their boundaries
- Make mistakes



Related Links on the Web

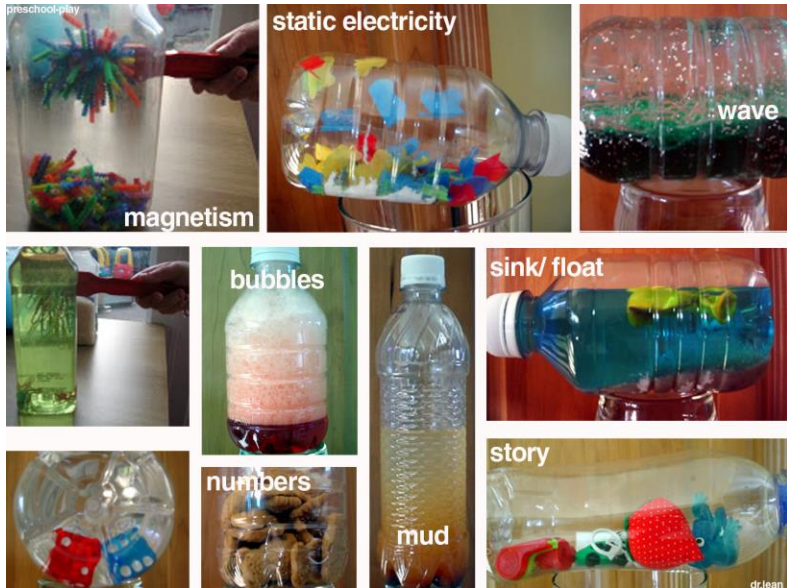
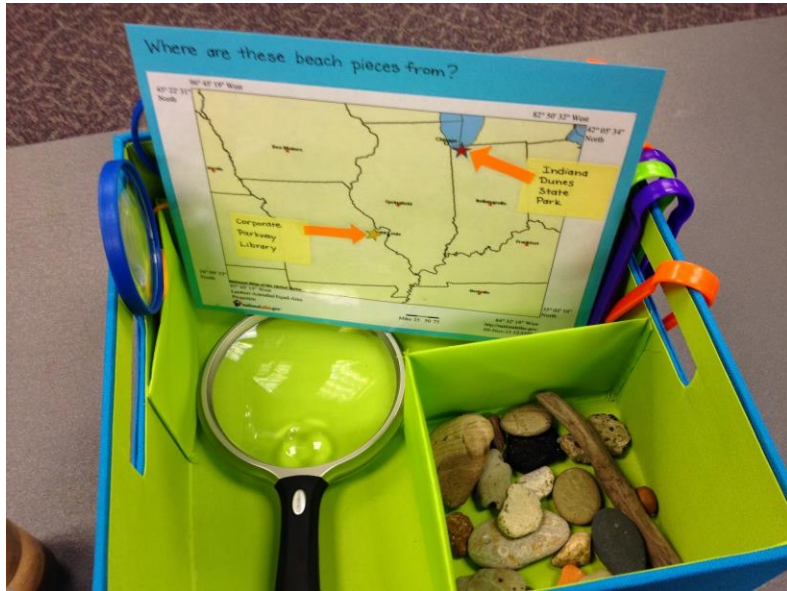
Podcast: Elevating Early Childhood

Science

<https://teaching-trailblazers.simplecast.com/episodes/how-to-set-up-a-successful-science-center-in-your-preschool-classroom>



Science Center Materials 23



magnets
magnet wands
prisms
magnifying glass
binoculars
kaleidoscope
eye droppers
color paddles
test tubes (plastic)
goggles
levers
pulleys
rocks
seashells

sensory bottle (oil & water)
tornado tubes
large indoor/outdoor
thermometer
texture boards
plastic animals
different types of wood
bird nest
leaves
pinecones
plants
ant farm
aquarium
writing materials

- What do you suppose would happen if you...? (add color, water, salt)
- I wonder why?
- Can you think of a way to...?
- What changes do you see?
- How would you describe what happened?
- What else can you do with? (magnifying glasses, microscope, magnets)





In the story Corduroy, he loses a button. We can discuss other types of fasteners. Velcro was inspired by this plant pictured on the left, the burdock plant. When a man (George de Mestral) took his dog for a walk, he noticed these stuck to his pants and his dog's fur. He used a magnifying glass when he got home to check out how it worked.



- Many of you are wearing clothes with fasteners. What do you notice?
- Shoes have fasteners. Why would you need them to stay fastened?

Activity: Fasteners

Books:

Corduroy

Shoes, Shoes, Shoes

Essential Questions:

How do families care for each other?

Sensory Table

At the Sensory Table Children learn to:



- Children learn best when they can touch and feel
- Open ended play- no desired outcome
- Oral language- vocabulary used to describe
- Fine Motor Skills- pre-writing
- Provides an opportunity for socialization, peer cooperation, self-regulation, and conflict resolution

Related Links on the Web

Podcast: Elevating Early Childhood

Sensory Table

<https://teaching-trailblazers.simplecast.com/episodes/5-easy-steps-to-setting-up-successful-sensory-table-activities-Gzu0PSkp>



- Tape a plastic tablecloth or shower curtain underneath to make clean up easier
- Place it in a kiddie pool
- Take it outside
- Have a small dustpan and brush set to teach the children how to clean up after themselves
- Uses Ziplocs with gel and food coloring in them for children who have sensory aversions. Tape around the edges for extra precaution
- Messes will happen-IT'S OKAY!!!

Fillers:

- Beans
- Colored rice
- Colored pasta
- Water beads
- Water with Ice
- Dirt-gardening tools or plastic bugs
- Packing Peanuts
- Corn
- Water/colored water
- Shredded paper



- What do you think will happen if you pour too much water in the bucket?
- Parallel Talk-(describe what the child is doing) You are pouring sand into the bucket and filling the bucket to the top.
- Self-Talk-(describe what you are doing) I am going to blow the boat as hard as I can



- **Activity: Water Wheels**
- **Books:** Oonga, Boonga
- **Essential Questions:**
 - How do you find the resources, information, and support to solve your problems?





- Connection to Science, Social Studies and History
- Pictured here is Dunn's Falls near Meridian
- Water created power for a gristmill and to make Stetson Cowboy Hats

Teacher Tips for Centers

Dramatic Play Tip Sheet

Science Tip Sheet

Music Tip Sheet

Conversations Tip Sheet

Behaviors Tip Sheet

Arts Teacher Tip Sheet



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