

PATTIJO'S POINTERS

HEALTH & SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS

For A Safe Classroom Environment



Did you know that 56% of accidents and injuries that occur in childcare centers are preventable and foreseeable? With the warmer weather and the children spending more time on the playgrounds, please keep in mind the following safety reminders:

- Children will have more serious injuries from falls higher than their height, so stand close to those climbers, slides & swings.
- When swinging children, do so from the front. This allows the child's knees to lock under the swing and hold them on instead of a possible push off when pushed from behind.
- Children's spatial awareness is immature, so although they do it time and time again, be aware of children walking in front of moving swings or tricycles.
- Staff clustering and talking will significantly increase the amount of injuries on a playground. Supervise, move around and interact with the children.
- Helmets need to be fitted to avoid a head injury off a tricycle.
- Children and staff need to have appropriate foot attire to avoid tripping, slipping or coming out of shoes not appropriate for active play. Remember, exposed toes will get stings, scrapes, stubbed, etc.
- Check play area and equipment for possible hazards each time you go out on the playground.
- Be sure first aid kits are stocked and accessible.

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one." -Malcom Forbes

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MOUTH MUSIC

Infant Information



Bet you didn't know you had a whole music machine right in your mouth! Babies love to hear a variety of noises, and your mouth is just the instrument necessary to make a perfect symphony.

Materials:

- Your mouth, tongue, teeth, and lips

What to do:

1. Hold the baby in your lap, facing you so he can see your face clearly.
2. Begin making noises with your mouth, such as:
 - Kissing and smooching
 - Clicking your tongue
 - Making raspberries with your tongue
 - Blowing your lips like a motorboat
 - Growling, squealing, gurgling, cooing
 - Whistling, singing, humming
 - Making animal sounds (i.e., duck, dog, cat, horse, cow, pig, chicken, monkey, snake, bird, donkey or wolf)

Safety:

If you use any instruments, make sure they are safe for the babies to try. Noises too loud could damage the baby's hearing. If a noise disturbs the baby, don't repeat it.

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DIG IN

Toddler Tips



Sand is simply put fun for young children. Toddlers love the way it feels and using all the developing skills, particularly dumping and scooping. They get many other advantages to playing with sand such as sensory experiences, learning estimation, volume and density. Here are some fun-filled activities that will build on their ever-growing skills:

Kitchen Gadgets

- Give the children a plastic funnel and show them how to pour sand in the top and watch it pour out the tube.
- Give the child measuring cups to fill with sand.
- Large spoons work great in the sand box.

Plastic Bottles

- Cut a large plastic bottle in half diagonally.
- Use the bottom to mold sand. Have half, then add some water and pat it down.
- Next, help to turn it over and remove the bottle.
- You can turn the top half of the bottle upside-down and use it for a sand funnel

Treasure Hunt

Bury some small toys in the sandbox for the children to find

Roads

Give the children some cars or trucks that can be used in a sandbox. Show them how to drag a small spatula or block through the sand to make a hard flat road. Use blocks or mounds of sand to create tunnels for your cars.

Sandbox "Words"

Playing in a sandbox can be a great time to help the children increase their vocabulary. Say words that match up with their actions (i.e., up and down, over and under, wet and dry, and in and out).

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PRESCHOOL TIDBITS



Young children are drawn to water so it allows many opportunities to teach. Children learn cause and effect, measuring, comparing, float/sink concepts, and basic problem-solving skills. Here are some activities that will enhance these skills and are fun too!

Water Toys

Almost anything plastic makes a great water toy. Be sure to set out some sponges, funnels, turkey basters, squeeze bottles & plastic measuring cups. (Use new sponges then discard.)

Making Bubbles

In a small dishpan, put some water and one squirt of dish detergent. Show the child how to spread their fingers in the water, and then move them back and forth rapidly to make bubbles. Blow bubbles through a variety of frames.

Sprinkle Bottle

Take a plastic bottle and poke some holes in the bottom of it. Let the child fill the bottle with water, then hold it up and watch the water sprinkle out.

Additional Water Fun

Paint the center with a bucket of water and large clean paintbrush. Purchase small watering cans and let the children water outdoor plants. Add water to the sandbox.

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