

## WRITING LESSON PLANS

The lesson plan is a very important part of working in a preschool. It will require time outside of class. Please plan on spending adequate time. The lesson plan is your outline for what will be done in the classroom on the day you are head teacher. If you have a complete, well-planned lesson plan, your lab will go much more smoothly. There is no set format for the lesson plan; however, it must be well organized and easy to read. This is a sample of a format that works very well for most teachers. (Show Transparency--"Lesson Plan Format")

1. Why write lesson plans? Lesson plans:
  - a. Encourage learning about oneself and others.
  - b. Organize the thoughts, activities, and interests of young children to create a more enjoyable and successful environment.
  - c. Provide learning opportunity with clearly defined goals.
  - e. Help meet the needs of children in your care.
  - e. Make sure children have a balance of inside and outside activities.
  - f. Provide the children the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities.
2. What topics should be used in working with children?
  - a. Choose themes (subjects or topics) or units of study that interest the children with whom you are working.
  - b. Keep the unit of study close to the child's comprehension level yet challenge their cognitive skills.
  - c. Allow children to learn through their senses (sight, touch, sound, hearing, and taste). It is the easiest and most enjoyable method for teaching children.  
Read the following case study:

Mr. Sims wanted his preschool class to share in the joy he had while visiting a zoo. He began to describe the animals to the children. As he talked, the children quickly lost interest. They could not understand his descriptions of the various animals.

Discuss how the senses could have been more involved.

1. He could have shown bright pictures of the animals.
  2. He could have arranged for a visit to the zoo.
  3. He could play recordings and let the children try to identify the animals.
  4. He could bring stuffed animals and let the children discuss the difference between a stuffed animal and a live animal.
- d. Using a concept file is very worthwhile. By creating such a file, they have already chosen topics to teach and have developed ideas that will stretch the imaginations of the children with whom they work.

3. How to organize a lesson plan.
  - a. When choosing a theme or unit of study, consider the time of year, the interests of the children, and their level of comprehension.
  - b. Include the following areas into your lesson plan.
 

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| arts              | math                  |
| crafts            | large and small motor |
| science           | creative movement     |
| spatial awareness | nutrition             |
| social studies    | music                 |
  - c. The theme must be organized into a lesson plan that enhances the developmental areas. Trying to identify all this information into a concise format may seem monumental. Keep in mind several activities may be included into large subject areas. Use the transparency "Developmental Goals."
  
4. Steps in writing a lesson plan.
  - a. Have a daily schedule of events or time frame established to teach each curriculum area.
  - b. Determine overall learning goals for students; what type of learning is to occur.
  - c. Establish a unit of study or theme.
  - d. Define important topics or goals relative to that unit.
  - e. Research interesting yet challenging activities to enhance growth and development and to meet goals.
  - f. Determine the best way to present the activities to the children.
    1. Small group: children are divided into groups of four or five and each group does the same activity.
    2. Whole group: the children all meet together, perhaps for the introduction of the concept.
    3. Rotating small groups: children are divided into groups of four or five. Each group does something different. The groups rotate to each activity until they have had the opportunity to participate at all stations.
    4. Learning centers: the children are allowed to choose the center they desire to participate in and may change any time they want to do so.
    5. Transitions: a method of smoothly moving the children from one activity to the next.
    6. Field Trips: take the children to an actual site and let them see firsthand what you are discussing in class.
  
5. Styles of lesson plans.
  - a. Calendar method--This method is simple and concise. It depicts the learning of the day. Caregivers can keep this calendar in a lesson book or post it on a bulletin board for parents.
  - b. Daily lesson plan. Show students samples of daily lesson plans. Review the steps in writing a lesson plan as you refer to these sample lesson plans.