
UNIT: Growth and Development

LESSON: Preschooler--Social/Emotional Development

COMPETENCIES:

1. Discuss social and emotional aspects of preschoolers. (Options 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9)
 2. Develop age-appropriate activities for physical, cognitive, emotional, or social development in preschoolers. (Option 8)
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OVERVIEW/SUMMARY:

The preschool years are the play years and a time of friendship.

MOTIVATOR:

Have the students write in their journals or write a short paper about their first best friend and everything they can remember about him/her. You may want to share your experience with the class and lead into the discussion in Option #2.

LESSON OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:

OPTION 1

BOOK: Friends or Bartholomew and the Oobleck, by Dr. Seuss, Random House, N.Y. ISBN# 0-394-80075-3, \$16.96.

OPTION 2--Competency 1--CDA VIII, ECD

Explain that the preschool years are considered the play years and that during the preschool years, the child becomes a bit less egocentric and has developed enough cognitively, physically, and emotionally to begin interacting socially. It is usually during these years, or at about age 5, that the child begins to have a close friend, other than family members.

OPTION 3--Competency 1--CDA VIII, ECD

PLAY: Discuss the different types of play usually seen in preschool-age children: sensorimotor play, mastery play, rough-and-tumble play. See teacher notes, "Play," for this information. (An excellent children's book is Humbug Witch.)

OPTION 4--Competency 1--CDA VIII, ECD

STUDY GUIDE: Have the students read in a text about social/emotional development and complete the "Preschoolers Social/Emotional Study Guide."

OPTION 5--Competency 1--CDA VIII, ECD

INITIATIVE VERSUS GUILT: Discuss the information in the teacher notes "Initiative Versus Guilt" about Erikson's stage during the preschool years.

OPTION 6--Competency 1--CDA III, 1-Social

GENDER ROLES: Briefly discuss the learning of gender roles during the preschool years using the teacher information "Gender Roles." If possible, have students read the NEWSWEEK article entitled "Guns and Dolls": Scientists Explore the Differences Between Boys and Girls." Shapiro, Laura (May 28, 1990). Guns and Dolls. NEWSWEEK, p. 54-65. Another superb article is "X: A Fabulous Child's Story," *Ms. Magazine*, December 1972, by Louis Gould.

OPTION 7--Competency 1--CDA VIII, ECD

PRESCHOOL EMOTIONS: Have the students complete the study guide, "Emotions of Preschoolers," either by reading a text or from the teacher information "Preschool Emotions." Read any of the following books: ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD DAY, NO MORE BATHS, I WAS SO MAD, PURE NUISANCE, SOMETIMES I LIKE TO CRY, THE TEMPER TANTRUM BOOK, HAPPY, SAD, ANGRY, GLAD, MAMA SAY THERE AREN'T ANY ZOMBIES, ETC.

OPTION 8--Competency 2--CDA II, Creativity

MOVEMENT: Discuss the teacher information "Movement" with the class. Then use any of Hap Palmer's movement songs or other different types of songs (fast, slow, loud, soft) and have the students involve themselves in a short movement activity or have them play one of the games at the end of the movement information. Discuss how they feel (besides feeling silly because they are preschoolers) and how a preschooler would probably feel while doing the movement activity.

OPTION 9--Competency 1

VIDEO: Watch the appropriate video. Human Development, 2 1/2-6 years, Series 620, Concept Media, P.O. Box 19542, Irvine, CA 92713-9542, 1-800-233-7078. Videos in the set include: "Physical Growth and Motor Development," "Cognitive Development," "Psychosocial Development," "Role of Play."