

What We Do in Early Learning and Why

Post this document in the classroom.

Invite volunteers and substitutes to read about the learning areas in the classroom.

All of the activities and skills in the table below are essential to the development of language and reading. The list is not meant to be complete but only an example of what we do in the classroom and why.

Learning Areas	What children do
Paint/Art Center	explore and create with color develop large motor skills express feelings and moods freely have a project to be proud of and share with others
Dramatic Play	pretend to be someone else develop self-identity practice language skills work out social problems
Meals in the Classroom	talk about the feel, taste and smell of foods talk about food groups, i.e. fruits, dairy products, etc.
Books/Listening Center	increase listening skills learn to appreciate books and records explore rhythm and dance learn songs and rhymes
Block Area	develop large motor coordination learn to work and play with peers explore number, size and shape concepts
Group Time	increase attention span play large group games share ideas with others
Gross Motor	develop large muscle and motor skills develop eye-hand coordination specific skills, such as numbers, matching, colors, etc. learn to share with others
Manipulative Toys/Quiet Game Area	develop fine muscle and motor coordination work out social problems "burn off" excess energy
Water/Sand/Playdough/Clay	explore textures see scientific principles, i.e., heavy/sink, light/float build and create pour, fill, spill and clean up