

Teaching Hints for the Early Years

No matter what age group you teach, it is important to adapt what you're doing to their developmental stage. Here are some traits and techniques you'll want to keep in mind when working with very young children.

Children in grades preK-3 tend to...

- ☼ Be curious and use all their senses to explore the world around them.

So...use activities that promote touch, hearing, and using other senses.

- ☼ Have limited ability to interpret time, space, and distance.

So...introduce activities emphasizing time, space, and distance slowly and with great care, particularly in the early grades.

- ☼ Have difficulty recognizing that objects have several properties.

So...introduce activities requiring logical development of relationships slowly and with great care.

- ☼ Like immediate results and lose interest in prolonged experiences.

So...activities should promote the examination of simple cause-and-effect relationships in their environment.

- ☼ Recognize the mood of a speaker as factual, serious, or humorous.

So...keep in mind that your mood will determine to a great extent the impact of the activity on the children.

- ☼ Enjoy pictures and read their own experiences into them as they talk about what they see.

So...select illustrations carefully to promote interest in the environment and encourage children to think about simple relationships.