

SETTING UP CENTERS IN YOUR PRESCHOOL

Liza writes:

Your site has helped me tremendously in teaching my class effectively. I would like to start centers with my class of three year olds, but I am worried that it will be chaos. When should I introduce the centers and how should I implement it.

I will have 15 children next fall, should I divide it by 5 so that I have 3 different centers then rotate them? The preschool is two hours long and I have one helper. Please help!

Jean replies:

I would start with just two centers, that you and your helper can each be in charge of. Then when the children get the idea of moving from one center to another, you could add one more. I would make sure that the third one added would be one that was safe and did not require much adult supervision.

I would choose, an Art Center (with a special art project) and a Discovery Center (with a science or cooking project). I would let the children choose which center they want to start in and then after 30 minutes have the children switch centers.

For the rest of your time, I would do group a group time (stories, music and rhymes, dramatics) and a free play time with blocks or table games, or outdoor time.

Hope this helps, Jean Warren, Preschool Express