

HOME PRESCHOOL – MIXED AGE CURRICULUM

Cadi writes:

I am starting a preschool out of my home. I previously taught first grade and just loved it. But now I am home with two girls, ages 2 and 4, with another one on the way. I would love to stay home and teach them and perhaps a couple more as well.

I am terrified and excited at the same time. I have a room set up and ready to go but I don't have a clue how to set up a yearly curriculum. Do you know how I can find out when to teach what? Do I do a letter a week, a number a week, community helpers, their bodies, shapes, etc.?

What is a good break down for a session? I have heard of 4 hours twice a week, also I've heard of 2 hours twice a week. What should my day look like?

Any help you could give me would be appreciated! I just LOVE your web site!

Jean replies:

With the age differences with your two girls, you would probably need to set up two different curriculums. There would be some things you could all do together such as, "open-ended art". Story and music time but the majority of the activities for the 4 year old would be too frustrating for the 2 year old.

You might find it easier to just concentrate on the 4 year old and plan a preschool curriculum. Then you could allow your 2 year old to participate or not (her choice) in the planned activities.

Does your younger child still take a nap? If so, this would be a great time to work with the older girl on letters, numbers and shapes.

Another idea, might be to pair up with another parent. You could include her child in your preschool if she takes your younger child to play with a younger child of hers to play at her house.

The other factor would of course be the ages of any additional children you may include in your preschool.

Another idea would be to teach preschool 3 days a week and toddlers the other two days. Your preschoolers could help you with the toddlers when it was toddler day and you could set up a separate play area for the toddlers when you are working with the preschoolers.

Sincerely, Jean Warren, Preschool Express