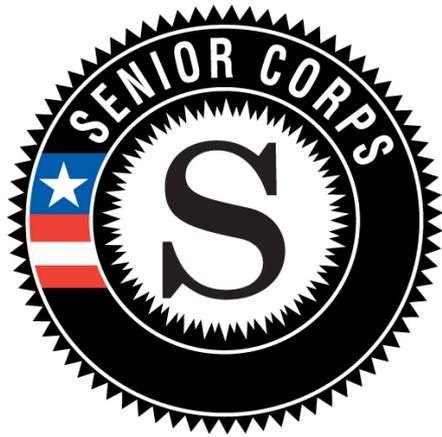


Supporting Children and Youth: Mentor Training for Senior Corps Volunteers



Serving Preschool Children (Ages 3-5)

Trainer:

Date:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the session, participants will better understand:

- ▶ Child development milestones at ages 3-5
- ▶ How preschool helps children prepare for school
- ▶ How preschool volunteers can contribute to children's social, emotional, and cognitive development

What surprises you about preschoolers?



Child Development

How preschool-age children learn

- ▶ Children are active learners (hands-on exploration and discovery)
- ▶ Children learn through
 - Using all their senses (touch, taste, sound, smell, sight)
 - Interactions with adults and children at home and school
 - Using materials available to them
 - Play and imagination

Child Development

Preschool contributes to learning in these and other areas:

- ▶ Language
- ▶ Literacy
- ▶ Logical Reasoning
- ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Physical Development
- ▶ Emotional Development
- ▶ Social Skills
- ▶ Creative Arts

Preschool Purpose and Routine

- ▶ Kindergarten readiness
- ▶ Preschoolers improve: language and self expression, literacy and mathematics knowledge, fine and gross motor skills, healthy hygiene, social skills, self esteem, concentration, etc.
- ▶ Routine may include individual activities, small and large group activities, outside play, snack time
- ▶ Activities are designed to hold children's interest and help them learn through play

Preschool Setting (example)



Preschool Setting (example)



Volunteers' Contributions

- ▶ Added a calming influence to the classroom
- ▶ Helped to redirect misbehavior
- ▶ Encouraged good manners by role modeling
- ▶ Helped children develop new language skills
- ▶ Developed or reinforced pre-literacy (reading/writing) and numeracy (numbers) skills
- ▶ Helped children learn self-help skills (e.g. wash hands before meals, tie shoes)

Supporting Children at Preschool

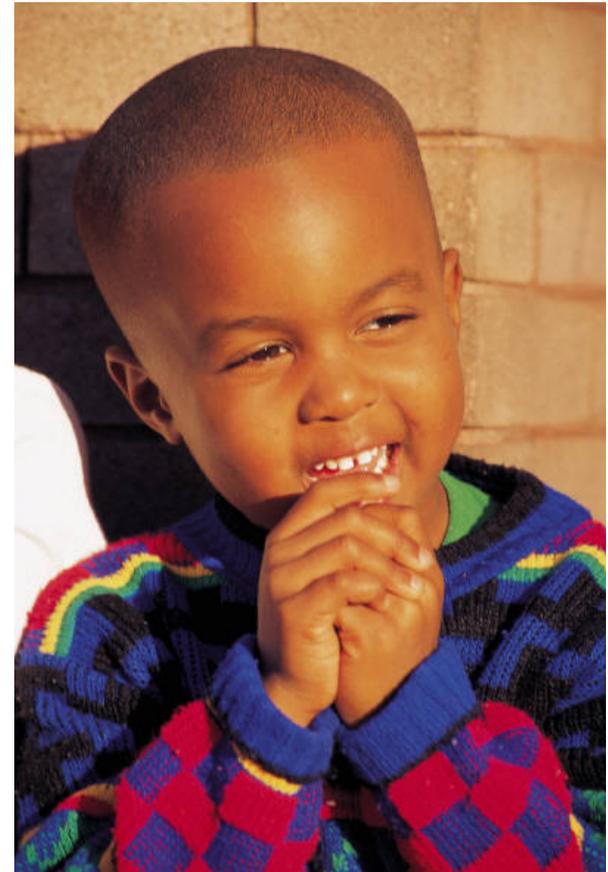
Instructions:

- ▶ Get together in small groups (3-4 people)
- ▶ Choose one person to record notes
- ▶ Read through your assigned scenario and discuss the questions.
- ▶ Jot down notes to question 1-3 and be ready to discuss.

Tips for Helping Preschoolers Build Learning Skills

- Let them choose.
- Help them finish what they start.
- Nurture creativity.
- Don't rush activities.
- Provide encouragement.

PBS Parents. *Your Three Year Old. Your Four Year Old.* Child Development Tracker. www.pbs.org



Changes in Child Care

How is it different now?





Childhood is the
most beautiful of all
life's seasons.

Author Unknown