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