

VPK Snapshots

A newsletter for VPK providers, directors, teachers and administrators in Florida

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Using Children's Literature to Teach Social Emotional Skills: Book Nooks

By Mary Ann Goodrich, West Central VPK Regional Facilitator



Early childhood educators use children's literature to teach a variety of skills and concepts. Did you know that there are wonderful resources on the Center on the Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning's website, www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu, for your use in teaching young children? Book nooks are simple guides that assist teachers in embedding social and emotional skills throughout the program day. There are a variety of high-quality popular children's books listed on this site that teachers often have available in their classrooms. Each book nook provides a brief description of the story and hands-on activities that can be used in centers, at small group meetings, mealtime, art, music and so much more. Check it out and you will be amazed at the many resources right at your fingertips.

So let's get started using book nooks. First, take some time to review the list of children's literature. Think about the skills and concepts of each book and how you can use them with the children in your VPK classroom. Now choose a book you want to read and if you are unfamiliar with the story, read it to yourself first. Determine the skills and concepts that you want to focus on and plan for a read-aloud. Create your plan to include areas of focus, new vocabulary to introduce, open-ended questions to ask and strategies to embed the learning throughout your classroom. Now gather the materials you'll need and decide when you will read the story for the first time. Remember that it is okay to read stories more than once. As children participate in the activities you have integrated in all aspects of your program, they will have multiple opportunities to practice these important social emotional skills that will last them a lifetime.



RULES

Upcoming Workshops

Apr. 17, 2017, 3:00 pm EDT

Rule 6M-8.300, Provider and Class Registration Procedures; Application; Eligibility Determination

Rule 6M-8.204, Uniform Attendance Policy for Funding the VPK Program

Remember to check our site regularly for a listing of proposed rules and notices.

<http://bit.ly/2gkcQIN>

Technology in Preschool

By Cassandra Jackson, Educational Policy Consultant

Technology is defined broadly as anything made by humans that can be used to solve a problem or make a process easier. Technology can be an object, a system or a process that results in the modification of the natural world to meet human needs or wants. A joint position statement issued by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning states, “Technology and interactive media are tools that can promote effective learning and development when they are used intentionally by early childhood educators, with the framework of developmentally appropriate practice, to support learning goals established for individual children.”



In preschool, children develop a sense of initiative and creativity. Using a variety of tools such as crayons, markers, measuring sticks, blocks and manipulatives, they explore their environment. Digital technology is another way children can show their creativity and explore through play based experiences. Here are a few ways to incorporate digital technology into your program.

- Explore digital storytelling with children. Co-create digital books with photos of children’s play or work; attach digital audio files with the child as the narrator.
- Provide opportunities for children to begin to explore and feel comfortable using “traditional” mouse and keyboard computers to use websites or look up answers with a search engine.

Resources: NAEYC, Technology and Young Children- <https://www.naeyc.org/content/technology-and-young-children>
Early Childhood STEM Working Group from the University of Chicago policy report, <http://ecstem.uchicago.edu/>



The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration hosted by the NAEYC celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families. It is a time to recognize that children’s opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment—at home, at child care, at school and in the community—that will promote their early learning.

For more information about how you can participate celebrating The Week of the Young Child, please visit the NAEYC website at www.naeyc.org/woyc.

