

What Should Children Learn During the Preschool Years?

Our opinions about how and what children should learn are shaped by our own experiences. Think back to your own childhood. What experiences did you have at home and school? How did your parents and teachers interact with you and other children? How has this influenced how you think children and adults should interact?

Think about the following scenarios. What would you say in each situation?

If...	I would say...
<p>Terrence’s mother stops to talk during pick-up time. She mentions that she is worried about Terrence starting kindergarten in the fall. She shows you the worksheets Terrence’s cousin is doing in his preschool program. She notes how impressive it is that he has copied and created a page full of the letter “R.” She assures you that she is happy with your family child care program, but she isn’t sure what Terrence is learning. She is worried that Terrence isn’t going to be ready for school in the fall.</p>	
<p>Before Kimberlynn starts in your program, her father schedules an appointment to come meet with you. After a few minutes of pleasant conversation, he mentions that he wants to talk about how you address issues with sharing toys in the classroom. He tells you that he believes children should not be asked to share toys. He knows Kimberlynn is very attached to her toys and to toys she plays with during play groups. He has seen care providers force children to give up toys, and he is not comfortable with that.</p>	