

Early Childhood Classroom Interests Tool

Preschool Classrooms

How To Use This Tool To Identify Children's Interests:

This form provides an easy way to pinpoint interests that are shared by groups of young children. You can use the results as a guide for developing activities that will appeal to the group's interests. In this way you can help the children in your program experience creative, interest-based learning activities that they will find truly engaging, beneficial, and fun!

Follow These Easy Steps:

1. Look, listen, and observe your students. Focus on what the children are doing and saying. Try to look beyond the obvious to discover what materials or activities capture the children's imaginations.
2. Read through the sample interest activities printed in the boxes on the following two pages. In the blank boxes, write additional interests you've observed among the children in your class. Then, while thinking of one child in your class at a time, write his or her first name in *three* boxes under the *three* activities you believe hold the *greatest interest* for him or her. Repeat this process for each class member, writing their first names in the boxes with their three top interests or assets.
3. After indicating all of your class members' greatest interests, consider the chart as a whole. Which activities have the most children's names under them? Write these in the "Top Class Interests" space on the last page.

Date: _____ Teacher: _____

Program Name: _____

Class Members' Names:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Playing with alphabet letters/ letter stamps	Acting out stories	Listening to and talking about favorite stories
Coloring pictures	Dictating stories about friends, activities, dreams	Having "conversations" with dolls, stuffed animals
Using finger paints	Doing fingerplays	Looking at books
Making books of pictures or photographs	Looking at picture books	Playing games (for example, board games, word games)
Making up rhymes, songs, etc.	"Writing" and drawing with sidewalk chalk	Singing songs
"Writing" or scribbling on paper	"Drawing" maps for trucks, buildings, treasure hunts	Reading signs when taking walks

"Writing" and reading on computers	Using recipes, menus, etc., in the cooking area	Drawing with crayons or markers
Making signs for the classroom and class activities	Using play dough, silly putty	"Writing" notes, letters, or journals
Dressing up in costumes and making up stories	Listening to and saying nursery rhymes, children's poems	Telling stories with puppets
Telling stories with a storyteller	Other: _____	Other: _____

TOP CLASS INTERESTS:		
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Notes: _____

