



What Does It Look Like?

Inside a Developmentally Appropriate Classroom

What should you expect from a developmentally appropriate (DAP) kindergarten classroom?

Kindergarten teachers that are...

Warm and caring

Patient and understanding

Provide structure and choices

Tolerant of accidents

Accept values of diverse cultures

A family friendly environment in which...



✓ Parents are encouraged to participate in their child's education.

✓ Parents are provided flexible times to

observe their children and assist in class!

✓ Weekly events are posted for parents and family to read!

✓ Weekly or monthly up-dates are sent home about...

Your child's GREAT days and rough days

Classroom activities

Future classroom events

Future School events

Volunteer opportunities for parents.

A child friendly environment with...



✓ A special place for your child's personal belongings.

✓ Materials that are child centered...

Clean and in good condition

Organized in labeled trays or baskets

Easy for your child to reach

Varied and in sufficient supply

Age and developmentally appropriate

Challenging and encourage exploration

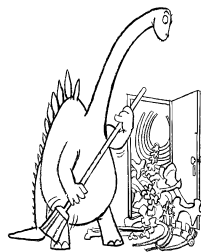
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- ✓ A variety of printed materials posted.
- ✓ Children's work displayed and at their eye level!
- ✓ Cooperative activities that foster cooperation, not competition & time to move and wiggle!

A Classroom Arrangement with...



- ✓ Designated areas for...
 - Make-believe play,
 - Writing,
 - Reading quietly,
 - Creative art,
 - Science and observation,
 - Table & floor toys,
 - Listening to and making music
 - Learning about diverse cultures
- ✓ Child developed rules posted and presented in a positive manner. for example,

"We will treat each other kindly"

A curriculum that includes: Opportunities for



observing...

And experimenting with real objects;

A balance of...

Child- and teacher-initiated activities;

Opportunities for...

Spontaneous play and teacher-directed activities;

Group projects...

In which cooperation can happen naturally;

A range of activities...

Requiring the use of large and small muscles;

Exposure to...

Literature and music of the children's own cultures and of other cultures represented in the class;



Activities appropriate for...

Children with diverse backgrounds and developmental levels;

Participation in...

Whole-group activities; and...

Time for individual or small groups...

Of children to meet with the teacher for specific help in basic language, math, or other skills as needed.

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**Although the above represents the ideal kindergarten classroom, each will vary depending on the program and its guidelines.*

For more information contact:



The Center for Parent Involvement (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi. The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPI (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

Transition, Parent Tip Sheets, #12: What does it Look like?

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