

Tips for Tots

February 3, 2015



Advance Reflection on Principles of Classroom Design: Considering the Child's Perspective

What does your classroom environment say about your educational values, your beliefs about the capabilities of young children, and the role of families in an educational setting?

General Principles

First and foremost, the educational space has to guarantee the well-being of each child. The following 10 principles are important to consider when creating your educational environment.

Transparent- From the child's perspective, can I see my friends, teachers, and family members from almost any place in the room? Can I quickly find the materials I want to use? Another aspect of transparency considers the amount and the display of materials in the environment. In general, you want the room to be as uncluttered as possible. From the adult's viewpoint, transparency adds to the ease of supervision.

Flexible- Can I find areas that support my interests in the classroom? Combining or rotating learning centers is one way to maximize learning opportunities without overloading the setting.

Relationships- Can I build relationships with other people in my classroom? Space needs to be allocated and arranged so that adults and children have soft, warm areas for gathering, snuggling, communicating, or just being together.

Identity- Am I an important person in this environment? Your learning space should provide traces of those who live in it. Photographs of children working and playing, family members, and staff members both at work and at home should be displayed.

Movement- Can I move my body freely?

Creating multilevel spaces, inside, as well as outside, provides additional ways for the children to explore their bodies in space. Platforms and lofts, for example, provide not only a quiet space for reading or writing but also offer a different viewpoint of the room and the objects within it.

Documentation- Do the Important Adults in My Life Communicate about Me Frequently?

Some classroom space should be dedicated to communicating and record keeping because reciprocal relationships are built on open, ongoing communication between the adults in the children's lives.

Senses- Is the environment warm and welcoming and a place that I want to spend 8–10 hours of my day? There needs to be a balance of hard and soft, rough and smooth, novel and familiar, simple and complex, and quiet and noisy.

Representation- Can I tell you in multiple ways about my understanding of and theories about the world?

Children need multiple opportunities to express their current understanding of the world. Representation of ideas can occur through paintings, drawings, dramatic play, music, writing, sculpting, or any of the other hundred languages.

Independence- Can I Do Things Myself? Displaying materials and supplies in baskets or clear containers on low shelves allows children to select and clean up materials by themselves.

Discovery- Can I find interesting things to examine closely and learn about in the space? Provide unique things to explore, examine, and learn about, does not have to be expensive. Arranging familiar materials in a new location or display is one technique for renewing interest. Another method is to use treasures or items from nature.

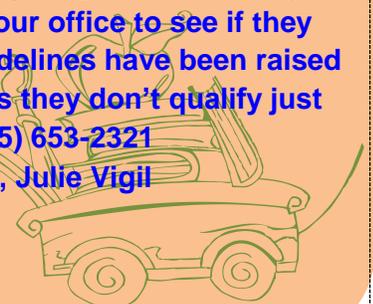
For the complete article, visit:

http://www.earlychildhoodnews.com/earlychildhood/article_view.aspx?ArticleID=451

CCS is currently enrolling.....please have any of your families contact our office to see if they qualify. Our income guidelines have been raised so someone who thinks they don't qualify just

might. (325) 653-2321

Thank you, Julie Vigil



Recipe Corner

Chocolate Covered Pretzel



Ingredients

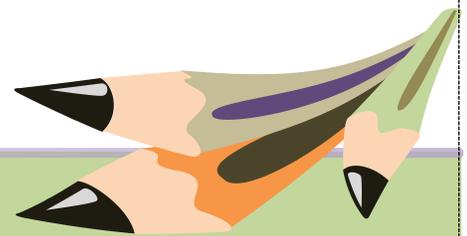
- ❖ Pretzels
- ❖ White Chocolate Melts
- ❖ Sprinkles
- ❖ Wax paper

Instructions

1. Cook chocolate for one minute in the microwave at 50% POWER, then stir
2. Return them to the microwave for another 30 seconds at 50% power, stir really well
3. Return chocolate to microwave if needed, make sure not to overcook **OR**
4. **Melt chocolate according to package instructions**
5. Dip pretzel into melted chocolate
6. Drizzle pretzel with colored sprinkles
7. Lay pretzels on wax paper and allow to set



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Heart Ladybug

Supplies

- ❖ red/pink/black construction paper
- ❖ red paint
- ❖ red pipe cleaner
- ❖ googly eyes

Directions

1. Cut out a circle (body) and a small oval (head) from black construction paper
2. Cut out big heart from red construction paper, turn upside down and glue onto body and head.
3. Cut out smaller heart from pink construction paper and glue on top
4. Glue pipe cleaner and googly eyes, add red finger paint to body, red glitter (optional)

Additional Information

The updated CCL Criminal History Charts are available

https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Child_Care_Standards_and_Regulations/Criminal_Convictions.asp

Caring for Our Children
National Health and Safety Performance
Standards Guidelines for Early Care and
Education Programs

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org/>

