

KIDBIZ Resources Newsletter

A Newsletter for Child Care and Early Childhood Professionals

October 2010 In this issue [Curriculum Planning - Part Two](#) [Tips and Tricks](#) [In The News](#) [This Month's Sale Items](#) [Upcoming Events](#) *It'll be a busy month here in Wisconsin - I'm helping the Wisconsin Family Child Care Association kick off it's NAFCC Accreditation Program with lots of training and lots of exciting plans for providers! We've gotten some help from our friends at Celebrate Children Foundation and are able to offer scholarships towards earning NAFCC Accreditation! I want to thank all my friends in Minnesota and Florida for sharing their programs with me, giving me the information we needed to get this off the ground. Nothing like this happening in your state? Send me an email and I'll be happy to share with you the people and places that inspired our program!*

Hug a kid for me!

Patricia

Creating Lesson Plans

This article is Part Two of a Curriculum and Lesson Planning series, if you missed the first article, read it in the September KIDBIZ Newsletter in the archives at www.patriciadischler.com.

You've created a curriculum that best fits your business and your philosophy of teaching, now that you know WHAT you want to teach the children, it's time to do the real work and make a plan for exactly HOW you will teach it to them. These will be your lesson plans. Typically done one week at a time they will show the specific activities that you will offer in order to promote the children's growth towards the specific goals you have outlined in your curriculum.

The biggest mistake a provider can make is to throw one together quickly for the sake of having one, or buy one lesson book and decide that's it. This should be a well-thought through process that reflects your long term commitment to this profession. Parents do, and will, notice the difference. Posting any old plan on a parent board isn't enough, and posting one that doesn't reflect what you are actually planning for the day is a breach of trust that will ultimately kill your business. Parents may not even read your posted lesson plans. But don't let that fool you into a false sense of comfort. What's important to the parents isn't what you plan it's what you do. The plan is for you, the results of the plan are for the parents. They will know by the stories their children tell, the

developmental milestones their children reach and the physical evidence in your room what activities were executed. They will see the difference between an orderly and thoughtful progression of learning and a haphazard one. In order to maintain a high quality reputation (not to mention wage) you will have to maintain a high level of learning for children in your environment.

Writing a successful lesson plan for the week, specific to the children in your care that week and reflective of your philosophies and curriculum, can seem like a daunting task. But it's really like building a house - you begin with a framework, fill in the walls and floors, then add the finishing details. Begin your lesson plan with your framework: your routine. Create a grid using the parts of your routine down the left side, and each day of the week across the top. Your routine may include group time, art, freeplay, outside time, a science project, reading time, or "choice" time in learning centers. Try to avoid labeling these in developmental areas since true learning actually promotes development in a variety of areas at one time. Instead, think of it in terms of "opportunities to learn"!

Next, fill in your "walls and floors" by covering the big stuff - look at your curriculum and see what developmental areas you are hoping to work on this week. Find activities that support learning in those areas and add them to the lesson plan. For example, if you have four year olds and it's time in your curriculum to work on classifying, letter recognition and balance, you will write "Sorting colored bears" under Choice Time, "Using easel to paint their name" under Art Time, and "Put 2-by-4 board in backyard for a balance beam" under "Outside Play". Use the wide variety of activity guides to keep your activities fresh and new! (Like, *Teaching the 3 Cs: Creativity, Curiosity & Courtesy*, on sale this month!)

Finally, add the finishing details. This is where you spend some time thinking about the specific children in your care and tweaking the lesson plan to match their interests and learning styles. You may have a child that is really into fire trucks this week - maybe change the sorting colored bears activity into sorting fire trucks? Or you have a child that is close to learning how to pump themselves on the swing, so you add "Sing Swinging Song" to one of the Outside blocks to encourage them. And let's say you have a little girl who's Mom went out of town that week for work for a few days and you know she'll need a little more attention, so you add "One-on-One Rock & Read" under "Reading Time" and plan to give her (and others who want it) a chance to have you for a book all to herself.

There are lots of lesson plan books out there that will give you a one week lesson plan. But they don't know your kids. And they don't know you. Lesson plans are meant to build a child's development, so they

need to be written with a specific child in mind! To reflect the professionalism of a child care business they need to also reflect the philosophies and goals of the business, so they need to be written with these goals in mind! For example, my slogan was "Teaching the 3 Cs: Creativity, Curiosity & Courtesy" which meant that my lesson plan grid had space on it everyday for Art Expression, Exploring Activity, and every Friday was Tea Party Day. These were a part of my "framework" that my activities were built on. My last group of kids there was a girl that loved princesses, a boy who we called "Rope Man" because he loved to tie things up with ropes and make things with them, and another boy who would read all day long if I let him. So I always had a place for us to dress up (often on Tea Party Day), an Exploring Activity that included a basket full of ropes and maybe some pulleys or buckets, and "Basket of Books" was added under "Outside Activity" to be sure they were always available.

Make your day one filled with fun and learning, and get your group of children excited about coming in the door each morning! A little preparation, a little thoughtfulness, and a lot of reward.

For more details on creating your lesson plans, read *From Babysitter to Business Owner* available at: www.patriciadischler.com.

Tips and Tricks

Some tips for getting info to and from the parents:

- Use cardboard paper towel and toilet paper rolls to roll up children's artwork and slip into for save transporting home.
- Use a chip holder to clip together important papers for parents that need to be taken home. Attach a strip of magnet to the back so they can put it on their fridge and keep the information on their minds.
- Call parents at home before they return from work to leave messages regarding bringing diapers, returning paperwork, etc. so they will get the message when they return home after picking up their child to help remind them of these type of things.

If you have some great tips to share, send them to:

contact@patriciadischler.com , putting "NEWSLETTER TIPS" in the subject line to be included in the next newsletter!**NAFCC Webinars**

NAFCC is quickly expanding it's webinar topics and offerings, check out this convenient way to get the training you need at: www.nafcc.org.

In The News:

The Creativity Crisis

Exchange Every Day recently sent a link to a story in Newsweek about the lack of creativity in the schools and how it is affecting our children and our future. Always nice when research proves my point for me! To

see the article visit: <http://www.newsweek.com/2010/07/10/the-creativity-crisis.print.html>. And to do something about it, get a copy of my book, Teaching the 3 Cs: Creativity, Curiosity & Courtesy at <http://www.patriciadischler.com>! Let's take control and bring some creativity back!**This Month's Sale Items**

October Sale Item: Because I Loved You

A roadmap for anyone touched by the adoption process, this is the ONLY book written about open adoption from a birthmother's point of view giving new insight to the adoption process. Part resource, part memoir, this book provides keys to success for any adoption. Endorsed by 5 national adoption agencies and used nationwide by pregnancy counseling centers, this book not only will help guide birthmothers in their unplanned pregnancy choices, but provide insight to adoptees as to what it takes for a birthmother to follow through on the choice for adoption, and give adoptive parents the secret to success in building their family by providing them with the missing puzzle piece of their adopted child's life. The story will make you cry, laugh, and understand that families are built by love.

Regular Price: \$16.95 Sale Price \$12.00

November Sale Item:

**Teaching the 3 Cs: Creativity, Curiosity & Courtesy,
1 Year Anniversary 20% Off!**

Do more than just fill your kids minds with information, teach them what to DO with it! Building a base of learning success is as easy as infusing your lesson plans with activities that expand a child's imagination and problem solving skills, get them excited about their own learning, and teach them to be successful in their relationships, in other words: Before you can teach them the 3 Rs, you've got to teach them the 3 Cs! This resource is filled with dozens of activities that strengthen a child's natural ability to be creative, curious and courteous. Indexed by state standard areas to make creating your lesson plans easy!

Regular Price: \$25.95 Sale Price: \$20.76

**Order yours today at: www.patriciadischler.com or
www.KIDBIZResources.com!**

Upcoming Events:

October 9, 2010

NAFCC Accreditation

Madison, Wisconsin

For more information visit: www.wecanaeyc.org

October 30, 2010

NAFCC Accreditation

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

For more information visit: www.wecanaeyc.org

If you are a member of a group planning a training event and would like to book one of my keynotes or workshops, visit the Lecture page on my website and contact me for availability. Visit www.patriciadischler.com/lecture.php.