

VOLUME 3 AUGUST 14, 2023



# THE SCOOP

HEAD START NEWS



Beginning of the year is always a VERY busy time of the year. We have a feeling that everything will NOT get done, but it does. Children will not know when they come on Thursday that their room is not set up the way you wanted it to. Less is More (read my strategies) and take time to celebrate all you have accomplished. What is important in your classroom is to have a caring and positive space for children to learn!



BACK TO SCHOOL





# Home Visits



Meeting our families in their home provides a wonderful opportunity to build a positive relationship with the family. Our focus this year is to support staff to complete these initial visits in the homes of their families.

**Do not forget to fill out the Home Visit Form for each family.**

Please be aware of the heat index when you take your children outside. Modifying your recess time will be important to assure children and adults do not get overheated. Water bottles will be important!







**Fun Times  
GROWING UP WILD  
at the ZOO**

**See Our  
Pictures**

**Less is More: Finding  
Peace in  
Your Classrooms**



**Ready for Strategies 2, 3, and 4?**



# Strategy 1

## Limit Choices and Materials

When there are a plethora of toys and materials in the classroom, children may act out. Children make many choices in an early childhood classroom every day, but when the number of toys and materials seems infinite, it can be hard for a child to make a choice. A teaching team should limit the choices to two or three items and see if that helps a child.

Even better is to limit the number of overall choices of materials available within the classroom. Fewer overall choices allow a child to more easily orient themselves in the environment and know what they want from their options. With too many things available, a child may take out an excessive number of items at once, mixing them all together, and have a hard time transitioning or cleaning up.

When there are less materials and toys in the classroom, clean up by the children, assisted by the teachers, can go much smoother.

**Consider having less of each item available.**





# Strategy 2

## Use Visual Schedules

A visual schedule is a KEY for children to know what to anticipate. Like an adult's hard-copy planner or digital calendar, the visual schedule helps the child keep track of their day and keep calm during their routine and tasks. Without a visual schedule or some way of knowing what is about to happen, children can feel disorientated.

Teachers can easily create a visual schedule with images of the typical routines of the day like group time, choice time, playground, rest time, and lunch. The schedule of the day can then be laid out top to bottom, or left to right, and displayed on the wall for easy viewing throughout the day.

Upon arrival in the morning, the children can check the visual schedule and know what the plan is for the day. Any worries or anticipation can often be eased right here! As the day progresses, each card can be pulled off the schedule as it occurs. The children should be a part of this process.

**HEAD START CLASSROOMS MUST HAVE A VISUAL SCHEDULE.**





# Strategy 3

## Maintain a Clean and Tidy Classroom

Build a routine for tidying up at different parts of the day. Before transitioning to a new activity, play a song to indicate that it is time to clean up and transition to group time. This gives children time to get their areas put away. Have one teacher gathered at the circle reading a quiet story that children can join when they are ready and finished cleaning.

Tidying up is easier for children when shelves or bins are marked with the images of what belongs there. Children can be very independent in cleaning up when they know where items belong and when these locations do not change very often. Encourage children to work together.

Children need to be taught to help with various tasks to tidy the classroom. This is MORE than just cleaning up their toys. Could they help with spraying and wiping tables before snack or sweeping the class with a child-sized broom? Some young children need and want this type of movement to feel regulated and calm in the classroom. Build spaces for these activities into your classroom schedule.

**THIS BECOMES A ROUTINE AND SUPPORTS A POSITIVE CLIMATE.**





# Strategy 4

## Adopt a “More than Enough” Mindset

Sometimes educators operate with a mindset to keep absolutely every item in a classroom, even if it is broken or missing pieces, because they are worried that they will never get the opportunity to get something similar in the future. Are there items that you can put away? Could those items be discarded?

Often times we keep items in our classroom well past their “expiration dates.” Reducing the amount of “stuff” in our classroom can require a mindset shift to understanding that we have more than enough materials to help children learn and grow. When we have an indoor environment that looks inviting, well designed, and calm, children and adults alike can find a sense of peace and purpose in their space.

**Head Start classrooms must be inviting spaces for children to learn. Less is BEST and items that are broken or in poor shape must be taken out of the classroom.**





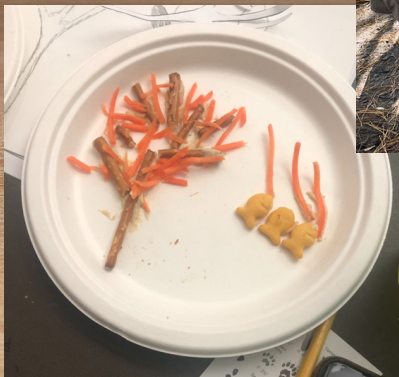


# 6 Schools Participated in Growing Up Wild at the Zoo

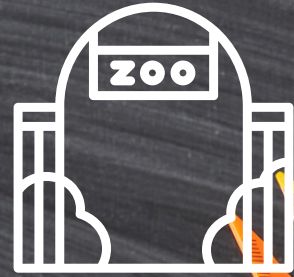
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Our Wonderful Instructors









# Head Start - Brevard Public Schools



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