



Infant and Toddler Newsletter

<https://blog.marybrighthouse.com/build-lesson-plans-infants-toddlers-preschools>

Learning as the Foundation

A quick internet search will yield a wide variety of free resources and ideas for curriculum planning. Some of these tools might be great, while others might be mediocre or misguided. High-quality lesson plans will always be connected to specific learning goals, so it's best to use lessons that answer the questions of **who, what, why, and how students will be learning from the materials.**

Here are a few different ways to ensure we are building our curriculum on a foundation of learning.

- 1) Consult the state's early learning frame-

work— this framework is a roadmap of the skills and knowledge children are expected to develop throughout their time in child care and pre-school .The state's early learning framework is one of the places we can source the "why" and the "so what" behind the curriculum planning.

- 2) Choose a preschool development assessment—It provides a full picture of students' development stages so that we can meet them where they are. It also pro-

vides feedback on the lesson plans so we can accurately address the needs of the class. It is a helpful tool we can share with parents to keep them updated on their child's progress and how they can continue their child's learning at home. Similar to the state's early learning framework, the developmental assessment provides an outline for the different skills we should be supporting in student's development.

Infant Lesson Plans

Infant lesson plans will be the most individualized and the most grounded in developmental milestones compared to the curriculum for other age groups. Infants develop at such a rapid rate that age differences of only a few weeks can translate into very different developmental goals. For example, an infant who is just working on rolling over is going to have different goals from an infant

who is getting ready to crawl.

Do not worry, there is no need to write an entirely separate lesson plan for each infant every week! Rather, think about lesson plans that speak to the whole group, with a small section dedicated to each infant's individual development. Pick 1 to 3 developmental milestones each infant is working on that

week and plan corresponding activities to support those goals.

Parents of infants will likely look to their infant and toddler providers to be trusted experts on how their little one is developing. The better we are able to speak to their infants' current and upcoming milestones, the more at ease parents will feel.

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Lower Shore Child Care
Resource Center
at Salisbury University

FYI: The Infant and Toddler Advisory Board provides feedback and suggestions to improve the infant and toddler services offered by the LSCCRC. They meet monthly/quarterly to plan events to support other infant and toddler providers in the lower shore area. If you would like to support the advisory board, please look for up coming events in the E-blast and on social media.

www.lowershoreccrc.org

Toddler Lesson Plans

When writing lesson plans for toddlers, prioritize flexibility and being open ended. Toddlers are happy doing the same activity over and over again one day, only to tire of the same activities the very next day.

Use lesson plans to capture the broad ideas of what the class is exploring together, while also leaving room for toddlers to take the curriculum in their own direction. If it sounds like you need to have an infinite number of lesson plans remember that toddlers will also want repetition. Only plan two or three activities for the week and repeat and adapt them as needed, for examples, by adding new materials. Through observation you will know when toddlers lose interest and it is time to introduce something new.



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The Lower Shore Child Care Resource Center is a member of the Maryland Child Care Resource Network with funding provided from the Maryland State Department of Education, through Maryland Family Network, and Salisbury University.

Preschool Lesson Plans

Preschool lesson plans will reflect a philosophy on early education. Create lesson plans that have a plan for that day and for the week. Map out the specifics for each part of the day: morning meeting/circle time, small group time, independent playtime, outdoor play, and so on. Things do not always go according to plan in the preschool classroom and responding with flexibility and creativity is a must, but including as much detail in lesson plans shows intention.

For many educators, our best ideas are spur-of-the-moment and often inspired by the students themselves. For this reason, it is important to make sure parents know the lesson plans are not set in stone and are meant to be a guide. Present the curriculum as living, breathing, and changing lesson plans while also updating parents on what is happening in the classroom each day. This allows educators to become effective teachers for preschoolers and an educator parents can trust.

The goal of any curriculum plan is to outline how students will develop the skills they need to be successful learners today and moving forward. As we continue to build and adapt our lesson plans, we need to ensure our students are receiving an amazing education that is unique as them!

