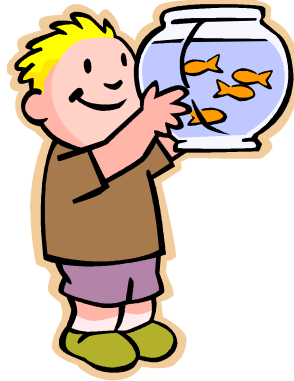


Early Childhood, Ages 5 to 8



Characteristics of Age Group

Experience slow, steady physical growth

Mastering body control and physical skills through play (tag, bikes, skates)

Focused on process vs. product: 'playing' vs finishing or "doing well"

Focused on own interests and viewpoints

Learning to be friends, with many "best friends" based on interests, circumstance

Boys and girls enjoy playing together

Thinking literal, requiring step-by-step examples of only a few steps

Implications & Applications

Use active learning experiences

Provide physical activities such as running, moving, games, cutting, pasting, painting, and building

Accept effort and enjoyment without requiring completion or deadlines

Offer make-believe activities to promote imagination, expression of ideas and feelings

Supply a balance of activities, alone and in groups; provide individual attention

Involve both genders in activities, leadership

Focus activities on five senses

Early Childhood, Ages 5 to 8

Characteristics of Age Group

Easily motivated, eager to try new things

Short interest span, present-tense focus

Naturally curious, wanting to make sense of the world

Sensitive to criticism and failure

Strong desire for affection and attention from parents and other caring adults.

Seek adult approval; not confident enough yet to set their own standards

Implications & Applications

Plan a variety of activities, each requiring a short time to complete

Make room for free time; move from one activity to another, alternating high, low, and moderate-energy activities. Be specific and clear with instructions.

Allow for exploration, spontaneity

Structure activities for maximal success; coach and encourage teamwork

Emphasize small groups, 1-4 ratio

Offer support and stay sensitive to individual needs and experiences

