



Primary Caregiving for Teachers

Helping Hands Tip Sheet



What is Primary Caregiving?

Primary caregiving means caring for a specific group of children in a specific classroom.

Did you know?

Primary Caregiving means children spend the majority of their day in a group with the same children and the same teacher.

Primary caregiving is good for teachers and children.



Brain Development

When children are cared for in primary groups, children are able to form positive relationships with the children in their group and the adults caring for them.

Positive relationships support developing a healthy self-esteem and social and emotional well-being.

Children who are socially and emotionally healthy are ready to learn!

Tips to get you started with Primary Caregiving in your classroom

Look at your daily schedule and discuss with your co-workers about how best to create a schedule that works for your children in your center. Should you create a schedule that allows one group to go outside while one group stays inside for circle time? Is it better to have circle time, meal time and outside time as a large group? If so, then perhaps center time can be small group time.

Arrange your classroom to accommodate small groups. Use shelves, tables and rugs to define areas so small groups are evident. Be sure to leave pathways and exits open for easy navigation in your room!

Group children with birthdays that are similar so they move to the same age group at the same time.



Safety Tip

If your classroom is located in an area with temperature extremes, or unhealthy air days, planning for one group to be inside while the other group is outside may not work throughout the year! Be sure to plan an alternate schedule for these times.