

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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Biggest challenge during Center Time

Center Time is a very important aspect for kids in early childhood education experience. They can engage in a variety of activities which they can learn from (Marrison 2018). When managing Center Time I face many challenges as a teacher but the biggest of them is children getting bored, distracted and not engaging in those activities in meaningful ways during Center Time.

Various Strategies

Strategy 1

The first strategy is to rotate Centers. By letting kids switch between activities during Center Time this method keeps them interested and avoids boredom. We as teachers observed an increase in learning and engagement when kids are inspired to try out new activities and experiment with various materials.

Strategy 2

The second strategy is to work in small groups. This method involves dividing kids into smaller groups during Center Time so they can cooperate on projects. In the small group context teachers see enhanced engagement and learning along with better social skills and teamwork.

Changes in effect

Here are a few possible shifts in the way kids participate and learn during Center Time that we as educators see.

Enhanced motivation: During Center Time children might feel more driven to interact with the materials and activities which could result in greater effort and participation.

Improved social skills: In the Center Time kids work with various items and they also sometimes participate in activities in small groups. These taught them to have better social skills and teamwork skills.

Increased inventiveness and creativity: During Center Time children can become more creative and inventive as they are exposed to a range of materials and encouraged to experiment with ideas (Bredekamp *et al.* 2023). They also sometimes work in small groups which leads to having a competitive mind and increasing creativity.



Figure 1: Children working in small groups
(Source:Haslip *et al.* 2018)

References

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