

Illinois Early Learning Tip Sheets



IEL tip sheets are easy-to-read, one-page resources on a variety of topics of interest to parents, teachers, and caregivers of young children. All tip sheets are available in English, Spanish, and Polish. Many are also available in French, Arabic, Korean, and Simplified Chinese. You can download all PDFs from our website and include them in printed or online correspondence such as newsletters, emails, text messages, or social media posts. You also can print them directly from our website. Here is our entire list of tip sheets. Series are grouped together. Graphic tip sheets are shown on page 4.

A

- Additions to the Family: Help Young Children Prepare
- Asthma: Easing the Wheezing
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

B

- Becoming a Young Self-Advocate
- Behavior is Communication
- Building Endurance: Let's Get Physical!
- Bullying Hurts Everyone

C

- Children's Social Competence Checklist
- Children's Votes Count!
- Choosing Child Care for Infants & Toddlers
- Collaborating with Interpreters and Families
- Communicating with Your Baby Through Sign
- Conference Time! Talking to Your Child's Teacher or Caregiver
- Connecting with Parents: "But He Doesn't Do That at Home"
- Cooperation in the Preschool Classroom: Class Discussions
- CSI: Child Scientist Investigates!
- Curriculum Adaptations: Six Simple Strategies
- The Curious Child

D

- Dealing with Ableism in Early Childhood Settings
- Dealing with Distraction
- Dealing with Parental Guilt
- Dental Health for Babies and Young Children
- Dining Away from Home with Young Children
- Do You Hear What I Hear?
- Drama and Young Children

E

- Ease Those First-Day Blues
- Eating Right = Healthy Children
- Encouraging Child-to-Child Conversation
- Encouraging Scientific Thinking: Rain or Shine
- Encouraging Words
- Engaging Every Child
- Eyes Right! Find Amblyopia Early
- Eyes Right! Your Child's Vision



Check out our Tip Sheets online!



All Tip Sheets



Graphic Tip Sheets

F

- Family Friendly Meetings
- Fight Germs! Wash Your Hands!
- Five Tips on Choosing a Preschool
- Food Allergy Awareness
- Freedom to Grow

Fun at Home with Preschoolers: (series)

- Getting Ready to Read!
- Let's Measure!
- Play with Light & Shadow

Fuss Management: (series)

- Comforting the Irritable Child
- Planning Ahead to Prevent Tantrums

G

- Games for All Young Children

Get Growing: (series)

- From Seeds to Sprouts
- Learning about Seeds
- Planning a Garden with Young Children
- Planters and Preschoolers
- Getting Ready for Kindergarten
- Getting Ready to Read and Write in Childcare
- The Gift of Words: Conversation and Routines
- The Gift of Words: Reading and Games

H

- Helping Children Develop "Impulse Control"
- Helping Children Handle Disappointment
- Helping Children Learn to Get Along
- Helping Preschoolers Learn in Two Languages
- Helping Siblings Get Along
- Helping Your Child Learn in Two Languages

I

- Inclusion in Preschool Classrooms
- Instructional Strategies for Students with Visual Impairments
- It Takes Money: Economics for Preschoolers

K

- Kids Who Care

L

- Learning and Fun on Family Field Trips

Let's Talk About...(series)

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Race, Ethnicity, and Young Children
- Young Children and Family Structures
- Young Children and Religious Diversity
- Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families
- Young Dual Language Learners and Their Families
- Lice Aren't Nice!
- Literacy across the Preschool Curriculum

M

- Make Room for Blocks!
- Making and Keeping Friends
- Making the Holidays Memorable and Meaningful
- Manners and Preschoolers
- Math Sense: Learning about Coins

N

Natural Illinois: (series)

- Birds
- Butterflies and Moths
- Frogs and Toads
- Insects
- Leaves Are All Around
- Mammals
- Rock On!
- The Trees You See
- Neighborhood Geography with Young Children
- No More Diapers: Getting Started
- No More Diapers: Is Your Child Ready?
- Noticing Signs of Voting in our Community

O

- Object and Visual Schedules
- Observing Your Child in Preschool
- Old Home, New Home, Our Home
- Organized Sports and Young Children

Out and About with Preschoolers: (series)

- Close Up with Visual Arts
- Dancing on the Sidewalk
- Literacy Activities
- Make Some Music
- Science in the "Built Environment"
- Sunshine Science
- The Places You'll Go!
- Visual Arts for Everyone

Outdoor Field Trips with Preschoolers: (series)

- Being There!
- Deciding Where to Go
- Follow Up!
- Planning Ahead
- Preparing with the Children
- Outdoor Play: Weather or Not

P

- Partnering with Co-Parenting Families

Path to Math: (series)

- Beginning Numbers
- Classification
- Geometric Thinking for Young Children
- Measurement with Young Children
- More Numbers
- More Word Problems for Preschoolers
- Real Graphs for Preschoolers
- Word Problems for Preschoolers
- Pets and Young Children
- Physical Fitness for Preschool-Age Children

- Physical Fitness for Toddlers
- Play and Self-Regulation in Preschool
- Play Right—Don't Bite!

Playground Physics: (series)

- Hang in There!
- On a Roll!
- Watch for Falling Objects!
- Please Don't Go! Separation Anxiety and Children
- The Power of the Pen: Drawing and Scribbling
- The Power of the Pen: Let Children Choose Writing Centers!
- Precoding Activities for Preschoolers
- Precoding for Preschoolers
- Predicting: Helping Preschoolers Look Ahead
- Preventing Lead Poisoning in Children

Project Approach (series)

- for Preschoolers
- Anticipating What Children Might Learn
- Children Taking Surveys
- Helping Children Ask Questions
- Helping Preschoolers Represent What They Learn
- Including Every Child
- Phase 1—Choosing a Topic to Investigate
- Phase 1—Getting Started
- Phase 2—Doing Fieldwork
- Phase 2—Getting Ready for Fieldwork
- Phase 3—Concluding the Project
- Protecting Children from Preventable Disease

R

- Real Work: Preschoolers Can Help
- Remember When ...
- Represent and Celebrate Diversity in Your Classroom Library

S

- Say What You Mean: Speaking Directly to Children
- Say Yes to Healthy Snacks!

Say Yes to the Mess! (series)

- Play with Rocks
- Snow Time
- Water Works
- Sensory-Friendly Events
- Sharing Books with Your Baby
- Sharing Books with Your Preschooler
- Sharing Books with Your Toddler
- SIDS: Back to Sleep
- Sing, Play, and Hear: Music's in the Air
- Small Child, Big Stress?

Special Education Assessment for Preschool-Aged Children: (series)

- Participating in the Assessment
- Referral and Getting Started
- Reviewing Results and Next Steps
- Starting Kindergarten? Help Make It a Good Experience!
- Strategies for Children Lost or Separated from Their Caregivers
- Swim Lessons for Young Children

T

- Take a Bold Approach to Shyness
- Tattling Behavior in Preschool
- Teaching Children to Avoid "Stranger Danger"
- Teaching Multilingual Early Learners
- Tearless Transitions
- They Said "No" ... Now What?
- Things Change

Things to Do While You're Waiting: (series)

- Art Works!
- Language and Literacy
- Learning Activity Kits
- Math
- Music, Sound, and Movement
- Physical Activities
- Science
- Things We Need: Economics for Preschoolers
- Time for Preschoolers: Duration
- Time for Preschoolers: In Sequence
- Time to Play, Time to Dream: Unscheduling Your Child
- Too Sick to Go to Child Care?
- Toys from Throwaways: Boxes
- Toys from Throwaways: Let's Recycle!

U

- Understanding Trauma and Young Children
- Using Predictable Books with Young Children
- Using Words to Provide Positive Guidance

W

- What Is an IEP?
- What Is Assessment?
- What Is Developmental Screening?
- What Is "Reggio Emilia Inspired"?
- What Makes a Good Toy?
- What's Next? Predictions at Story Time
- When Children Mourn
- When Should I Send a Sick Child Home?
- When the Teacher Calls...
- Where Are We? Maps and Young Children
- Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?
- Who's the Leader?

Y

- Young Authors at Work: Literature Response Journals
- Young Authors at Work: Story Dictations
- Young Children Need to Play!
- Young Children's Mental Health: What Is Essential?
- Your Child's First Day in Preschool

Z

- ZZZs, Please! Bedtime for Preschoolers

Graphic Tip Sheets

- Counting Up, Down, and All Around!
- Discover Letters and Words
- Discover Shapes in Many Places
- Feelings Are Fantastic
- Get Ready to Read
- Get Them to School Every Day
- Going to Kindergarten?
- Healthy Children Eat Right
- Helpful Signs to do with Babies
- Investigate Together
- Keep Up the Good Work
- Keep Young Children Safe in the Car
- Keeping Track of Important Information
- Learning by Listening to Language
- Making Sense of Numbers
- Play With Your Toddler—Indoors
- Positive Guidance for Young Children: (series)***
 - Be Consistent
 - Be Thoughtful
 - Plan Ahead
 - Take a Break and Calm Down
- Read and Write Together
- Read with Your Toddler
- Rights of Families Experiencing Homelessness

- Sorting, Classifying, and Organizing
- Supporting Adult-Child Relationships
- Supporting Children with Limited Verbal Skills
- Swimming for the Ages
- Talk Together
- Talk, Listen, and Learn
- Talking to Your Child's Teacher
- Tech Time for Infants and Toddlers
- Tech Time*** for Young Children
- Things to Do While You're Waiting: (series)***
 - Art Is All Around
 - Curious Young Scientists
 - Get Physical
 - Math Is Everywhere
 - Music and Movement
- Trauma-Informed Care in the Classroom
- Work and Play Together