



Transcript for the Video:

Guiding Young Children's Behavior

Segment 3: Selecting Classroom Materials and Planning the Schedule

TRANSCRIPT for Objective 4

Enough Materials and Choices of Things to do

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Host: Having enough materials and choices of things to do in a classroom promotes positive behavior. Conflicts over materials are an all too common problem in a pre-school classroom. One way to help with this is by creating centers that have a variety of materials available and multiples of the most popular items. While you can't always have enough magnifying glasses or scissors for each child to have one, often having just a few will do the trick. Having at least 5 choices in each center means children will find something that interests them and there will be enough materials to go around. We visited a pre-school classroom to see this idea in action. Let's take a look.

Narrator: Teachers promote positive behavior when they create learning centers with enough materials and choices. This science area has at least five choices and multiple items at different levels of learning to interest children and support positive behavior.

Teacher: I think we have one more box on the shelf, I think there's more in the box on the shelf.

Narrator: There are multiples of the most popular items.

Teacher: is it in there? It is in there!

Narrator: This block area also has adequate numbers of materials.

Dr. Jeffrey Trawick-Smith, Eastern Connecticut State University: A study was done recently on children with special needs, and the authors of this study asked this question: "What features of a classroom lead children with a variety of different disabilities to stay engaged involved in play activities and learning activities." The third most important factor to keep these children really focused in activities in the classroom, were the number of play choices children had. The greater the number and variety of materials in centers, the more involved these children were in learning and play. This same finding in a number of studies on typically developing children as well.