

# Early Childhood Classroom Interests Tool

## Infant/Toddler Classrooms

### How To Use This Tool To Identify Children's Interests:

This form provides an easy way to pinpoint interests that are shared by groups of young children. You can use the results as a guide for developing activities that will appeal to the group's interests. In this way you can help the children in your program experience creative, interest-based learning activities that they will find truly engaging, beneficial, and fun!

### Follow These Easy Steps:

1. Look, listen, and observe your students. Focus on what the children are doing and saying. Try to look beyond the obvious to discover what materials or activities capture the children's imaginations.
2. Read through the sample interest activities printed in the boxes on the following two pages. In the Notes section on page 3, write additional interests you've observed among the children in your class. Then, while thinking of one child in your class at a time, write his or her first name in *three* boxes under the *three* activities you believe hold the *greatest interest* for him or her. Repeat this process for each class member, writing their first names in the boxes with their three top interests or assets.
3. After indicating all of your class members' greatest interests, consider the chart as a whole. Which activities have the most children's names under them? Write these in the "Top Class Interests" space on the last page.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Members' Names:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Babbling or talking on the phone	Playing peek-a-boo	Listening to and saying nursery rhymes
Saying and waving hellos/ good byes	Playing with toys that make noise or squeak	Looking at family photos
Finger drawing in pudding, yogurt, or finger paint	Scribbling with crayons or markers	Looking at picture books
Looking at catalogs, magazines, or newspapers	Dressing up in costumes	Playing with musical instruments
Playing naming games like "Where is your nose?"	Doing fingerplays like "Where Is Thumbkin?"	Using play dough
Playing with talking toys like "See 'n Say"	Looking at books about familiar things such as toys, animals, and food	Listening to stories told with puppets

Making up rhymes, songs, and silly words like "scoopey, doopey"	Hearing mommy's or daddy's voice	Scribbling and drawing with sidewalk chalk
Singing songs	Making sounds with the voice and having an adult copy the sounds	Looking at signs when taking walks
Banging on pots and pans	Swinging and asking to go faster and higher	Playing in the sandbox
Playing with the people figures, furniture, and pets in a doll house	Doing lap games like "Pat a Cake" and "Trot, Little Horsey"	Playing with a toy barn filled with animals, tractors, and farmers

**TOP CLASS INTERESTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Early Childhood Classroom Interests Tool

## Preschool Classrooms

### How To Use This Tool To Identify Children's Interests:

This form provides an easy way to pinpoint interests that are shared by groups of young children. You can use the results as a guide for developing activities that will appeal to the group's interests. In this way you can help the children in your program experience creative, interest-based learning activities that they will find truly engaging, beneficial, and fun!

### Follow These Easy Steps:

1. Look, listen, and observe your students. Focus on what the children are doing and saying. Try to look beyond the obvious to discover what materials or activities capture the children's imaginations.
2. Read through the sample interest activities printed in the boxes on the following two pages. In the blank boxes, write additional interests you've observed among the children in your class. Then, while thinking of one child in your class at a time, write his or her first name in *three* boxes under the *three* activities you believe hold the *greatest interest* for him or her. Repeat this process for each class member, writing their first names in the boxes with their three top interests or assets.
3. After indicating all of your class members' greatest interests, consider the chart as a whole. Which activities have the most children's names under them? Write these in the "Top Class Interests" space on the last page.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Members' Names:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Playing with alphabet letters/ letter stamps	Acting out stories	Listening to and talking about favorite stories
Coloring pictures	Dictating stories about friends, activities, dreams	Having "conversations" with dolls, stuffed animals
Using finger paints	Doing fingerplays	Looking at books
Making books of pictures or photographs	Looking at picture books	Playing games (for example, board games, word games)
Making up rhymes, songs, etc.	"Writing" and drawing with sidewalk chalk	Singing songs
"Writing" or scribbling on paper	"Drawing" maps for trucks, buildings, treasure hunts	Reading signs when taking walks

"Writing" and reading on computers	Using recipes, menus, etc., in the cooking area	Drawing with crayons or markers
Making signs for the classroom and class activities	Using play dough, silly putty	"Writing" notes, letters, or journals
Dressing up in costumes and making up stories	Listening to and saying nursery rhymes, children's poems	Telling stories with puppets
Telling stories with a storyteller	Other: _____	Other: _____

<b>TOP CLASS INTERESTS:</b>	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

