



Moving forward with Small group time

Overview

HighScope's small group time is a time reserved for children to experiment with materials and solve problems in an activity adults have chosen for a particular purpose. Small groups of 5-10 children and one adult meet in a variety of locations-floor, outside or around a table-to experiment with materials, pursue and express interest, or use materials to solve a problem. Adults encourage children to make choices and decisions about how to use the materials and describe in their own words what they are doing.

PQA-II-G The program has a time each day for small group activities that reflect and extend children's interest and development

- There is a daily time set aside for small-group activities
- Throughout small group times, children contribute their own ideas and participate at their own developmental levels (individual children explore and use the same set of materials in their own ways).
- Children and adults always stay with the same small group for at least 2 months or more

Goals for moving forward


1. Plan small group experiences ahead of time

__Children's interests

__Curriculum content

__New materials

__Local traditions or events

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2. Use a beginning, middle and end to support children through each part of a small group time activity
 3. Support and extend small group time activities
 - _Observe what the children do
 - _Move from child to child
 - _Coment on what the children are doing and saying
 - _Imitate and add to children's actions
 - _Use the materials yourself
 4. Encourage children to explore and use materials at their own developmental pace
 - _Encourage the children to explore and make what they want with the materials
 - _Encourage the children to use materials in individual ways

Implementation plan

1. Explore these videos on small group time:
 - <https://youtu.be/5p0jaoZ1V8g>
 - <https://vimeo.com/171421029>
 - <https://vimeo.com/171143875>
2. Prepare a small group time activity using this document: [Small group time planning sheet](#)