

## Selecting Classroom Interest Activities

This tool provides a way to identify and select classroom activities that match the interests of the group of children in your classroom as well as those of individual children within the group. With this tool, it is easy to ensure that the classroom activities you provide will help the children experience interest-based learning activities that are engaging and fun.

### ***Here's how:***

1. Thinking about one child in your classroom, identify the child's interests. Notice the objects, people, activities, and actions that are the child's favorite things to do; or that get the child to smile or laugh, be excited, stick to an activity, or work hard at something. Pay attention to what the child chooses to do most often, and to when the child repeatedly asks for something.
2. Read through the sample activities printed on the attached table, and write the child's name in the boxes labeled with the three or four activities that best match the child's interests. If additional activities better match the child's interests, add the activities in the boxes labeled "Other".
3. ***Repeat this process for each child in the class.*** Then, considering the table as a whole, determine which activities have the most children's names under them. Use these activities in planning many of the classroom learning experiences.
4. Be sure to identify enough different activities to provide ***each child*** opportunities to participate in activities that match his or her interests.

## Classroom Activities



Drawing with crayons or markers	Painting at easel	Finger painting	Sculpting with play dough
Looking at books	Listening to stories	Making up stories/ making a book	Making cards or notes
Singing songs/doing finger plays	Listening to music	Dancing/marching to music	Playing musical instruments
Playing in sand or water	Using magnets and/or magnifying glass	Gardening	Collecting nature items
Building with blocks	Using Legos	Using toy vehicles	Playing with toy animals or toy people
Dressing up	Acting out stories	Playing with dolls/stuffed animals	Pretending to cook or bake
Working puzzles	Playing sorting/matching games	Playing with puppets	Playing movement games
Other _____	Other _____	Other _____	Other _____