



The Role of the Preschool Teacher: Unit 3, Key Topic I

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## The Preschool Teacher

### **Characteristics of High-Quality Preschool Programs**

- Intentional teaching
- Support of integrated learning
- Positive teacher–child relationships
- Positive home–school relationships
- Play as a context for learning

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## The Preschool Teacher

### **Characteristics of High-Quality Preschool Programs**

- Teacher planning time
- Qualified teachers
- Appropriate child–teacher ratios
- Individualized adult–child conversations that promote language and positive relationships

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## The Preschool Teacher

### **Characteristics of High-Quality Preschool Programs**

- Opportunities for children to learn and practice new vocabulary
- Frequent assessment that documents individual progress and informs instructional planning
- Parent engagement

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## The Preschool Teacher

### **Major Responsibilities**

- Build and Maintain Positive Relationships with Children (pp. 39–40)
- Build and Maintain Positive Relationships with Families (pp. 40–41)
- Create an Environment for Social and Emotional Learning (p. 41)

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## The Preschool Teacher

### **Major Responsibilities**

- Be Responsive to Children's Linguistic and Cultural Experiences (p. 42)
- Include Children with a Wide Range of Abilities and Approaches to Learning (pp. 42–43)
- Understand Children's Needs and Capabilities (pp. 43–44)

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## The Preschool Teacher

### Major Responsibilities

- Plan the Learning Environment and Curriculum in the Domains of School Readiness (pp. 44–45)
- Balance Child-Initiated and Teacher-Initiated Activities (p. 45)
- Assess How Well the Program Meets Children’s Needs (p. 46)

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## The Preschool Teacher

Features of High-Quality Early Childhood Programs ↓	Major Responsibilities of Preschool Teachers								
	Build and maintain positive relationships with children	Build and maintain positive relationships with families	Create an environment for social and emotional learning	Be responsive to children’s linguistic and cultural experiences	Include children with a wide range of abilities and approaches to learning	Understand children’s needs and capabilities	Plan the learning environment and curriculum in the domains of school readiness	Balance child-initiated and teacher-initiated activities	Assess how well the program meets children’s needs
Intentional teaching									
Support of integrated learning									
Positive teacher–child relationships									
Positive home–school relationships									

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## The Preschool Teacher

- ✓ Consider each component of a high-quality preschool program.

*California Preschool Program Guidelines, Page 81*

- ✓ Decide if and how the major responsibilities of preschool teachers support that component.

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## The Preschool Teacher

### **Brainstorm**

- Review the elements of high-quality programs.
- Identify how teachers could contribute to helping to achieve and sustain high quality.

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## The Preschool Teacher



- What caught your attention as you reviewed and discussed a preschool teacher's major responsibilities?
- Which ones seemed the most critical in creating a high-quality preschool program?

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## The Preschool Teacher



- What insights are emerging from this crosswalk of preschool teacher responsibilities and the elements of high-quality programs?
- What will you consider from this discussion for your own professional development?

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## The Preschool Teacher



- Which ideas stood out most for you?
- What seemed familiar or reinforced what you already know or have experienced?
- What gave you a new perspective or insight that causes you to think differently about teaching preschool children and/or engaging their families?

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## The Preschool Teacher



- Why do you think the content of this class session was presented the way it was? How did this approach help you understand the content? What else would have helped?
- What does this tell you about how you learn?

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## The Preschool Teacher



- How will you decide what to apply from this class session in your work with preschool children and families?
- What will you do to ensure you will implement what you have decided to use?