

Hands-On Learning in Early Childhood

<https://www.theedadvocate.org/importance-of-hands-on-learning-in-early-education/>

Hands-on learning is essential for children in early childhood education. This type of education helps them in 2 different and meaningful ways. First, using hands-on learning allows young students to explore and learn new concepts by using different modalities. And second, this type of learning helps their brains to engage and create and expand the neural pathways. These connections that are gained will help the student to grow and learn as they get older continually.

In order for tactile learning to occur, a preschool classroom should be structured to support hands-on learning, along with the other types of learning styles. At this age, desks or tables and chairs should not be the focus of the room. The youngest learners should not and can not sit for long periods of time. There should be plenty of manipulatives; bins of pipe cleaners, modeling clay, a water table, finger paint, glue, crayons, geoboards, building blocks, etc.

With today's curriculum, more and more emphasis is being placed on having a structured preschool classroom. There is a greater push to have preschoolers involved in more formal learning. Not only are the younger learners capable of learning in this type of environment, but it is also unfair to expect them to learn this way.

Preschool children learn best when they are allowed to explore and move. Allowing them to explore and learn concepts by using their 5 senses is an age-appropriate method. It gets them actively involved in answering questions such as how, why, and what. Another critical benefit of hands-on learning is that students learn through trial and error. Being allowed to make mistakes and see how to do something differently is an important lesson to learn. This allows the youngest learners to develop their critical thinking skills. A trait that they will need as they progress in their school years.



Hands-On Learning at ILCCM

At ILCCM, we know how crucial it is to provide age-appropriate, engaging, and purposeful activities for our kids. Our Program Directors, Leigh Ann and Madi, along with our teachers, work diligently to create and implement lessons and activities that develop traits and skills that last a lifetime. We want kids to be up and moving, exploring, and participating in thought-provoking lessons that make them excited about school and learning. Our lessons correlate with our weekly Bible stories, so the biblical lesson is enforced multiple times throughout the week.

Make sure to check out the Facebook page to see pictures of all the fun things the kiddos are doing in and outside of the classrooms! :)

