

Classroom Jobs; We will all have a job and each one is important!



Maintaining our classroom is a shared job within our classroom. I truly believe it is important to allow the children

to take part in caring for our classroom in order to take ownership of the space. The children are learning right now, at the beginning of school, that they are expected to help keep the classroom neat and tidy each day by putting away their personal belongings, cleaning up their materials during center time, and throwing out their trash after meals. As the classroom jobs were introduced it was discussed with the children the importance and responsibility of each job. Each child has a job in our classroom; jobs that they do each day and a job that changes on a rotating basis each week or two weeks.

The weekly jobs— which may be anything from Meteorologist to Garbage Collector— help to instill students with a sense of responsibility and foster community within the classroom. The concept also helps the children to become competent and organized.

Several weeks ago, we introduced our classroom jobs as needed throughout each day. During group meeting times, we discussed the responsibilities and importance of each job. For example, when we introduce the botanist, we will talk about what a real botanist does, what plants need to live, how we could help plants live in our classroom, and why we have plants in our classroom. I will be quick to explain to the children that I am not very good at keeping plants alive (a true fact) and will strongly promote the importance of the botanist's role in our classroom. We have continued to gradually introduce the jobs until each child now has a specific responsibility.

I place a great deal of emphasis on classroom jobs, and by extension, so will the kids. In the weeks to come, the children will be consulted on Monday morning about which job he/she would like to do for that period. Throughout the process, I look forward to watching the excitement of the children as they arrive on Monday mornings in anticipation of choosing a new classroom job responsibility. This is a great opportunity to reinforce the importance of reading as a means to gather information, and it helps students recognize words in connections to pictures. The job chart is created with a photo of each job with the associated job title. This is a wonderful introduction to print awareness and the importance and purpose of words.



On the Classroom Jobs chart, beside the job title and beside each child's photo, there is a card, one side of the card is colored red and the other side is colored green. As the children complete their job each day, with or without prompting, they will change their colored card from red to green, meaning that they have finished their job. A card remaining red at the end of the day, shows that the child did not do his job or forgot to "clock-in". The children are very supportive and encouraging to others, as they will give reminders and prompts to their classmates for remembering to complete their job and change their card from red to green. At the end of the day, during our Goodbye Meeting, we will review the job chart and discuss how helpful it is to have friends to help out with the jobs and responsibilities of the classroom.

The children love the jobs and are doing very well with them. Not only do the jobs teach fundamental concepts and skills, but they are fun and many of them also allow the children to practice academic skills such as counting, number recognition, and writing. Such as, the Secretary is responsible for counting and recording the number of students who "signed-in" each morning and the Meteorologist also records, reports, and graphs the weather for each day. If you are interested in knowing your child's job at any time and the academic skill we will be focusing on with your child associated with the job, please let me know. Many of these jobs can be carried over as responsibilities your child can assume at home as well, providing consistence for practicing a specific skill or concept.

A list of our Classroom Jobs include:

Teacher's Assistant	Electrician
Veterinarian	Secretary
Classroom Greeter	Tour Guide
Meteorologist	Tour Guide Assistant
Classroom Inspector	Doorkeeper
PE Equipment Manager	Garbage Collector
Wait Staff (Two Children)	Botanist
Clean-up Crew (Two Children)	Announcer

**"The reward of a thing well done
is to have done it."
~Ralph Waldo Emerson**