- c. Print center names in two languages.
- d. Take photos for signs.
- e. Make an illustrated floor plan.
- f. Make an illustrated schedule chart.

#### 3. Develop a child's self-regulating method.

- a. Use tickets.
- b. Use name tags.
- c. Use photo tags of each child.
- d. Use learning center necklaces.

## 4. Develop children's trust in the teacher.

- a. Accept children unconditionally.
- b. Give children enough time to get involved.
- c. Show delight in meeting parents.
- d. Refrain from correcting a child's speech.
- e. Have children bring a toy from home.

## 5. Develop children's trust in peers.

- a. Help children gain access to ongoing play.
- b. Ask a child to perform a task that will include other children.
- c. Help the child set up a similar activity parallel to a group activity.

## 6. Develop children's trust in the environment.

- a. Have materials similar to those in the home.
- b. Make own materials.
- c. Demonstrate that this classroom cares.
- d. Place overstuffed chair in corner for private space.
- e. Provide tiny toys to borrow.
- f. Provide picture books for home lending.

# **Try It Yourself**

- Make a classroom floor plan for your program showing learning centers according to the ideas presented under Section 1-7a, "Perceiving the Activities Available."
- 2. Design picture and sign labels for all of your learning centers according to ideas presented under Section 1-7b, "Learning Center Labels, Maps, and Schedules."
- 3. Make an illustrated schedule chart showing the daily schedule of activities in your program according to ideas under Section 1-7b, "Learning Center Labels, Maps, and Schedules."
- Provide a self-regulating method to help children choose activities in your classroom according to ideas discussed under "A Self-Regulating Method." Have children use it.
- 5. Carry out one of the ideas under "This Classroom Cares for You" that has not already been done in your classroom.

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- Note how children construct knowledge through interactions with materials, activities, and people in their environment.
- d. Describe interactions with validating, personal, respectful, and accepting qualities.
- e. Understand that much new technology may be appropriate for kindergarten but not for preschool.
- f. Use an observation tool to help focus on particular aspects of child behavior.
- g. Record important information at the same time or at the end of the day.
- h. Use these data as the basis for individual planning.

### 3. Responding to individual children

- a. Give support, encouragement, and direction.
- b. Make sure your interactions with children help them develop positive feelings about themselves and a positive relationship with you.
- c. Make comments that reflect specifically what you see.
- d. Ask questions in a way that will elicit a statement about the child's work.
- e. Avoid using terms of judgment.

#### 4. Serving as a behavior model for the children

- a. Put yourself in the place of the child.
- b. Set the stage and lead the way about caring.
- c. Present yourself as a happy, confident person.
- d. Show your delight in what children are doing.
- e. Listen seriously to children.
- f. Avoid "talking down" to children.
- g. Treat assistants and interns as you would like to be treated.
- h. Add beauty to your learning environment.

## **Try It Yourself**

- 1. Observe the children in your class and record (giving specific details) three different examples of children in the manipulative level of interaction. Based on your evidence, what is their level of social interaction?
- Observe and record three different examples of children interacting at the mastery level, giving specific details. Give evidence for their level of social interaction.
- 3. Record any children interacting at the meaning level, and try to capture on paper or a recording device their conversations as well as their actions. What social levels of interaction do they display?
- 4. How would you respond to the children you have recorded in #1? Why?
- 5. How can you serve as a learning model for the children recorded in #2? Why?

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- c. Serve as a block-building role model for a reluctant child.
- d. Tailor interventions to fit the situation for a child with special needs.
- e. Redirect disintegrating activity with specific suggestions.
- f. Help disruptive children put emotions into words.
- g. Reiterate the caring motto of the program.
- h. Pool blocks from several classes.

# **Try It Yourself**

- Label each type of block and each accessory with picture and word signs on your Block Center shelves.
- 2. Observe and record the behaviors, interactions, and talk of three different children in the Block Center for three days. Make comments on their developmental and social play levels and how you were able to determine the levels.
- 3. Go on a field trip to a building or a construction site with some or all of the children. Do a follow-up activity in the Block Center by bringing in new accessories to support your trip, by mounting pictures of the building in the Block Center, or by reading a picture book about buildings or construction to a small group. Record what happens with blocks.
- 4. When cognitive concepts such as *circle*, *square*, *rectangle*, and *triangle* are being presented, put masking tape in the Block Center for children to build those shapes. Record what the children do.
- 5. Make up a new block pickup game. Use it for a week and record the results.

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### 3. Promoting emotional development

- a. Give children real practice with their ideas of resolving conflict in dramatic play.
- b. Help children deal with dramatic play conflicts with activities conducted outside the Dramatic Play Center.
- Read stories centered around play conflicts and discuss with children how conflicts were resolved.

#### 4. Promoting cognitive development

- a. Give children practice in real play situations to discover what works and what doesn't work for them.
- b. Have dramatic play serve as a follow-up to field trips.
- c. Stimulate field trip follow-up play with photos and theme stories.
- d. Read books related to the trip.
- e. Put out field trip props for the children's use.
- f. Use the driving bench and chairs as a fire truck.

#### 5. Promoting language development

- a. Allow enough time for children to become deeply involved in play.
- b. Have two toy cell phones in the Dramatic Play Center.
- c. Have calendars on the wall, phone books and notepads near the phone, and magazines and newspapers in the family area.
- d. Have children make up stories about their play episodes.

### 6. Promoting creative development

- a. Motivate creative play themes through fantasy role play by making up stories featuring imagination.
- b. Have children use their imaginations to create "impossible" mental images.
- c. Have children try out different ways to differentiate fantasy from reality.

## **Try It Yourself**

- 1. Set up the Dramatic Play Center to include a family/housekeeping area with appropriate props as described in this chapter and a second "sitting room" area for other play themes.
- 2. Observe and record the levels of social play that your children demonstrate, according to Parten's levels (see Chapter 2).
- 3. Help onlookers or solitary players become involved in dramatic play by inviting them to share an undemanding role with you. Be sure to include dual-language learners and children with special needs.
- 4. Record several episodes of dramatic play that give evidence of leader and follower roles.
- 5. Take children on a field trip and follow it up with dramatic play activities, using appropriate props and a story. Record the results.

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### 8. Doing follow-up book activities

- Scan book illustrations to cut up for puzzles, flannel board characters, board games, paper dolls, stick puppets, and counting games.
- b. Do follow-up activities with On Top of Spaghetti in many centers.
- c. Make pizza with the children as a follow-up to *The Lady with the Alligator Purse*.

# **Try It Yourself**

- 1. Set up your Book Center as described in this chapter, with rugs, pillows, bright colors, posters, games, puppets, and a core of good early childhood picture books displayed attractively. If you are not yet in a classroom, make a similar diorama.
- Read a book to a small group in the center that will promote their language development based on "sound play." Have a follow-up activity that extends the learning based on the book.
- 3. Use a book with children to promote their social development. Follow up with an activity based on the book in another part of the classroom.
- 4. Bring in several predictable books, and tell what makes them predictable. Then use them with children and report on the results.
- 5. Put an appropriate book in each of your learning centers. Which books will you choose? How do you plan to use them? Report the results.

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### 4. CD players, computers, and cell phones

- a. Make sure children can operate equipment.
- b. Purchase sets of books along with each CD.
- c. Have children be Word Detectives finding rhyming words in books.
- d. Have book available when using each computer program.
- e. Have children make up own stories about going to the beach.

#### 5. Dual-language learners

- a. Use Living Book series, now available via Wanderful.
- b. Practice listening to English/Spanish pages with dual-language partner.
- c. Partners say words in English and Spanish until they sound right.

### 6. Cell phone activities

- a. Read picture books with phoning themes.
- b. Leave two cell phones (without batteries) in Listening Center so children and teachers can make pretend phone calls to one another.

### 7. Puppet activities

- a. Read an exciting picture book with an impressive main character.
- b. Find or make a puppet of the character.
- c. Have children take turns saying the character's words as you read the story.

# **Try It Yourself**

- 1. Bring in several books and their CDs. Observe how children use them. Are they keeping up with their page turning as the CD plays? Talk to them about the story. What do they like about the characters?
- 2. Help a young beginner to get started using a book, a CD, and a headset by herself. How can you help her overcome any problems?
- 3. Play a word game using a sound-play book with a small group of children. What words do they like? Can they find any other words in their book that sound like their words? Can they find any objects in the room that sound like their words?
- 4. Bring in a computer book program. Be sure to have the print book on hand. Read the book to a small group before two children use the computer program. Ask them how the computer program is different from the book. Which do they like better? Why?
- 5. Use the online book *Just Grandma and Me* with a Spanish-speaking child and an English speaker. Have them choose a page to look at where they can switch to each of the languages. What words can they say in the other child's language?

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# **Living Books Online Books**

Arthur's Birthday

Arthur's Teacher Trouble

The Berenstain Bears series

The Cat in the Hat

Dr. Seuss' ABC

 $Green\ Eggs\ and\ Ham$ 

Harry and the Haunted House

Just Grandma and Me

Little Monster at School

The New Kid on the Block

Ruff's Bone

Stellaluna

The Tortoise and the Hare

(Programs and books available from Amazon.com or through Wanderful Interactive Storybooks)

### 2. Promoting cognitive development

- a. Have simple alphabet computer programs.
- b. Trace around set of alphabet letters and have children match real letters.
- c. Have alphabet books appropriate for preschoolers.
- d. Make alphabet letters personal for each child.
- e. Ask children to sign their names, even scribbles.
- f. Take photo of child's name made from alphabet blocks.
- g. Read books featuring names.
- h. Have children collect letters.
- i. Make letter cards from old playing cards.

### 3. Promoting small-motor development

- a. Add a new writing tool and activity.
- b. Have a wet chalk activity.
- c. Do finger painting on small trays of salt.

### 4. Promoting social development

- a. Do a total group thank-you note on newsprint.
- b. Bring in all kinds of greeting cards.
- c. Make mail boxes from half-gallon milk cartons.
- d. Have children sign up to take a turn.

### 5. Promoting language development

- a. Involve children in making lists.
- b. Involve children in daily journaling.
- c. Put out several paper punches.
- d. Write own shopping list in English and Spanish.

## **Try It Yourself**

- 1. Set up a Writing Center in your classroom with shelves full of writing tools, equipment, activities, computer programs, books, posters, a typewriter, and a bulletin board as described in this chapter. (Or make a diorama of one.)
- 2. Set up a print-rich environment in other areas of your classroom with labels, signs, children's names, charts, sign-up sheets, bulletin boards, and other print materials.
- 3. Do an alphabet letter activity with a small group as described in the chapter, using wood, plastic, or metal letters; books; a computer program; cards; or a field trip.
- 4. Do a writing activity with a small group as described in the chapter, involving the children in actually "writing" a story, an experience, a letter, a note, or something else.
- 5. Make an assessment of five of your children as to the level of involvement they display in writing or printing letters (i.e., manipulation, mastery, or meaning) and describe how you determined their level.

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- 3. Do an art activity with a small group of children that begins with your reading to them one of the children's books suggested in this chapter.
- Set up a color-mixing activity for your children to discover on their own how colors can combine to make a new color.
- 5. Set up a clay activity for your children and observe what they do with it.

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- c. Make collection of musical finger plays for transitions.
- d. Bring children into a group to learn new finger play songs.
- e. Use CDs for musical games.
- f. Involve children directly in making music.
- g. Do not force uncomfortable children to join in.
- h. Allow shy children to hide behind an object while singing.
- i. Have a weekly puppet sing.

### 5. Promoting language development

- a. Make up words to familiar tunes about children's names or clothing.
- b. Sing one song at a time over and over, inserting different names.
- c. Make guessing game songs about children's pets.
- d. Print out words of these songs in family newsletters.
- e. Have song and picture books of familiar songs to read and sing.

## 6. Promoting cognitive development

- a. Have children learn concepts (loud-soft, high-low) by tapping.
- b. Fill glass containers with different amounts and then tap.

#### 7. Promoting creative development

- a. Have children paint to stories and music.
- b. Play night music while children do night art activities.
- c. Play Nutcracker Suite when Sendak's In the Night Kitchen is read.
- d. Make a night collage after hearing the story of Owl Babies.
- e. Have children record their own rhythm-band music.
- f. Have children try whistling after hearing "Whistle While You Work."

# **Try It Yourself**

- 1. Develop and implement a series of personal music experiences for children based on their hands. Use the ideas described in this chapter about "shoe music" as a model. Record what happens.
- 2. Involve the children in making their own rhythm instruments to promote eye—hand coordination and fun with music. Record the results.
- 3. Teach the children some new songs in the informal manner described here. Also use a picture book with the children that is based on the lyrics of a song or chant. Record the results.
- Help shy children to become involved in music by using puppets. Record the results.
- 5. Record on 3-by-5 cards the lyrics of all the songs you sing with children in your program. Then add cards with the lyrics you make up for personal songs about every child using a familiar tune as described.

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- 3. Read a book to stimulate children to pursue the activity at one of the stations you have set up. Record the results.
- 4. Observe and record the numbers and names of children using the stations in the Large-Motor Center on three different days.
- Add a large-motor activity for children with special physical needs, and have everyone participate in it.

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- 3. Do a counting field trip with children using picture punch cards of objects to be counted.
- 4. Do a weighing or measuring activity with children, using real tools and recording the results.
- 5. Introduce a new math concept to a small group of children, bringing in a new activity or material for them to use.

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### 12. Promoting language development

- a. Record results of science exploration by audio recording, charts, or journals.
- b. Keep a tree diary.
- c. Keep a group journal for ant farms.

#### 13. Promoting creative development

- a. Read books to stimulate curiosity.
- b. Make science personal.
- c. Have children pretend to be creatures they collect.
- d. Give children freedom and time to explore on their own.

# **Try It Yourself**

- Set up the Science Center in your classroom with tools for investigating things, for measuring things, for containing things, for collecting things, and for recording things as discussed in this chapter. Or bring in all of the tools and demonstrate how they will be used.
- 2. Do an activity with a small group of children that encourages them to explore with one or more of the five senses. Be sure to include children who speak little English and children with special needs. Record the results.
- 3. Read a picture book to a small group of children to stimulate their interest in a personal science topic, and come prepared to follow up on this interest with materials or a project they can do. Record the results.
- 4. Write down the questions and comments you hear children making about the scientific investigating they are doing and then make and write out plans to extend this activity based on the children's comments.
- 5. Invite parents to go along on a collecting trip and record the results in one of the ways mentioned in this chapter.

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Attend a weekly or monthly planning session, and write out plans for an individual child based on observations recorded on the Child Interaction Form and interpreted by you.

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