



Pyramid Model Quarterly Newsletter

A framework for promoting the social emotional development of young children

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Summer Fun

For the last nine months, educators and children have been working hard teaching and learning. In a culture that seems to be busy and doing something all the time, can we set aside time to slow down and enjoy doing less?

What If?

What would a summer day in a classroom look like if, instead of moving from one structured activity to another with a little free choice time thrown in, the focus became one or two structured, teacher lead activities and the rest of the time was child lead free play? What would that be like for the children in the classroom? What would they learn?

Ways to Slow Down for the Summer

Summers in Tennessee are not for the faint of heart! The mornings are cooler and a great time for extended outdoor play. Let those kids move

and strengthen their bodies through running, jumping, and climbing. The heat of the afternoon after nap is a great time for water activities. Children have endless ideas for what to do with a small bucket of water, and there's always mud.

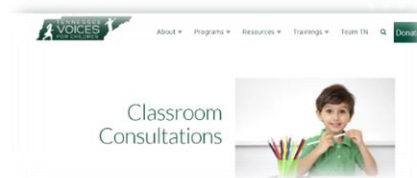
On those afternoons when it's too hot even for water activities, a class dance party or a movie can be an outdoor alternative.

For those moments of structure, children could learn how to make ice cream using team work and the shaker ball or tie-die a T-Shirt. All outdoors!



What are your favorite childhood summer memories and how could your students have similar experiences?

Social-Emotional Fun in the Sun



Classroom Consultation

Bring the Pyramid Model to life in your classroom with our Classroom Consultation Program

Social-Emotional Fun in the Sun

Summer offers everyone a chance to slow down from the everyday grind and focus on ways to have fun and play. Everyone benefits from play, especially children. Play is how children learn coordination and balance, get practice thinking skills, grow imaginations, improve communication den skills, deal with feelings, and play together. Play is essential, and here are some fun ideas to play away this summer!

Simon Says

Simon Says is a great game to work on listening, and it can easily be turned into a time to practice emotions and coping skills. "Simon" (can be the teacher or a child) can say to make a sad face or to take a deep breath or practice taking a turn with the child next to you.



Teacher, May I?

This game, same as Mother, May I?, is a great way for children to practice asking before doing, and, like Simon Says, is easily to include emotion words and coping skill practice.



Puppet Shows

Read a book and have children pick out their favorite character. Children can then make a puppet for their favorite character, and, if they are old enough, can work together with a small group of children to put on a mini puppet show.

If you're looking for book ideas, the [Book Nooks](#) are a great place to start and come with other activity ideas as well.

Feeling Charades

Put together a set of pictures that represent the feelings you want your students to work on. Have them act the feeling card they pick and the other children guess which feeling it is. When your class is ready, they can name a coping skill to help the feeling.



Some more fun play ideas can be found at: www.thegeniusofplay.org

Summer Self-Care

For many educators, summer is a glorious two months off to recuperate from the past school year and get revitalized for the upcoming year. For educators who continue to work with children throughout the summer, the journey becomes about finding ways to revitalize and reenergize during the summer while still providing learning opportunities for children.

Play is important for grown-ups too. (Check out Brene Brown's book [The Gifts of Imperfection](#) on why.) Whether that's a day trip to the lake or a grill out with friends or an afternoon nap, educators' getting their cup filled is just as important as educators filling up children's cups through the nurturing and support they provide in the classroom.

May your summer be full of fun and joy!

Classroom Consultations to Support Pyramid Model Implementation

Are you wondering what to do now that you have been trained on the Pyramid Model? Did you leave the training with ideas, but aren't sure how to bring the strategies into your classroom? Or do you need some more specific support around challenging behavior? Our Classroom Consultation program can help!

So much of the professional development we receive can get lost between the training session and our daily classrooms. Without someone to support the integration of the new strategies, the new information can simply remain ideas rather than action items.

The Classroom Consultation process is teacher driven with a goal of supporting all children. This process is not evaluative or tied to any formal assessment. It begins with the teacher completing a Needs Assessment, which is a self-reflective tool to identify current teacher strengths and areas to improve upon. The Classroom Consultant works with the teacher and offers strategies and resources to increase teacher practices around the areas identified.

This service is offered at no cost to teachers at child serving centers, preschools, elementary schools, and Head Starts across Tennessee.



For more information:

To request a classroom consultation, check out our [website](#) or contact Kelli Celsor at kmott@tnvoices.org.

Early Childhood Program

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Tennessee Voices for Children Early Childhood Program appreciates the work that you do and wants to provide you with ongoing support.

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