

Preschool Classroom PACT Time

Planning PACT Time

Children Plan with Preschool Teachers

Before parents arrive, children plan where they will start playing when PACT Time begins. In this way, parents who are participating in classroom PACT Time can follow their children's lead.

Ideally, all children will have an adult family member present for classroom PACT Time, but this isn't always the case at all FACE sites. Plan for PACT Time with all the children in class and the FACE team can provide adult support for the children whose parents are not in attendance.

Adults Discuss a PACT Time Focus

Parents plan using a focus that fits with what children are learning. For example:

- Notice what materials your child likes to play with.
- Ask your child to show you how to do something.
- At some point in playtime say, "Let's pretend..."
- Create an opportunity to write something on a stickie note during play today.
- Make comparisons (bigger, smaller, longer) a part of your conversation

During PACT Time

Teachers Observe, Support, and Reflect

Teachers observe interactions.

- Watch as parents and children play together
- Listen for active conversation
- Take note of positive interactions you can comment on to families

Teachers support families by modeling.

- Active play on the child's level and interest
- Encouraging and approving talk
- Use of the PACT Time Focus

Reflect on what your FACE team can do to help parents.

- Share your observations with your FACE team
- Connect PACT Time observations to Parent Time session topics
- Give parents ideas they can use to enhance PACT Time interaction

Parents and Children Review

Parents help children expand their language and understanding during PACT Time and especially when they recall their experiences with them at the end of PACT Time. PACT Time Review happens between parent and child. Teachers can model for parents with children whose parents are not in attendance during PACT Time.

- What was your favorite thing we did?
- That was a great sandwich you made in the kitchen area. What was on that sandwich?
- How many blocks do you think we used to build that tower?
- Let's remember all the areas we played in today.

PACT Time Circle

The goals of PACT Time Circle are to:

- Support children's literacy and learning
- Engage parents in children's songs, finger plays, stories
- Model dialogic reading for parents
- Talk about transfer home and provide transfer home ideas and activities
- Close PACT Time in a group

Teachers Discuss and Provide Transfer Home Activities during PACT Time Circle

An exciting part of FACE is that families continuing learning together outside of school. Transfer home is one way of helping parents support their children's learning at home.

Transfer home ideas should be simple and easy to accomplish. They can fit with the PACT Time Focus, with the Circle Time Book Read Aloud or with something else children are working on in their class. Be sure to provide any necessary materials and a note to parents if they are not present for PACT Time to hear about the transfer home idea.

During PACT Time Circle, ask children what they did for transfer home the previous evening and provide a new idea for transfer home for the current evening.

When parents are not present for the full FACE experience, be sure to provide them enough information to make transfer home a valuable learning experience for both children and parents.

Debrief

After PACT Time, debrief with parents using the same focus and adding other comments. Vary the focus daily or weekly to keep parent interest high and adult, child interactions active.

- Were you able to use the focus during PACT Time and at home?
- What else came up in PACT Time that you want to talk about?
- "Today I noticed a lot of conversation."
- Let's think of ways we can interact with our children when they choose computer time.