

## EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOGS

Most are written by mothers, teachers or early childhood professionals and their content is related to their at-home, classroom or professional experiences. There are several that focus exclusively on early childhood and learning disabilities and a few cover policy, advocacy, and public awareness. When pursued strategically, they can be helpful in advancing specific messages related to multiple early childhood topics.

[Smart Start](#) Run by the organization, this blog is broader in nature and one of the few that tracks early childhood related advocacy, policy, public awareness campaigns, and conferences, special events and research.

[Preschool Daze](#) This blog will leave you in awe. You'll see children pushing paint-covered barrels larger than they are. Rolling apples down chutes filled with paint. Gluing oversized things into composition books. You *won't* see any smocks.

[Toddler Brain](#) This blog is written by a teacher and mother. Many of the posts are about her bright ideas for on-the-spot teaching, such as counting items around the house. The activities and recipe sections are definitely worth a look, too.

[Little Gems: Prenatal and Infant Education](#) This is about as "early" as early education can get. The author doesn't shy away from big issues, such as right brain/left brain dominance, and multiple intelligence theory. Each post discusses a significant topic in depth, and concludes with a list of references for further study.

[Organized Chaos](#) Written by a teacher that doesn't shy away from sharing the low points, such as a math class in which a distracted child broke open an egg in the adorably naive hope of finding a chicken, with tongue-in-cheek humor.

[Always Learning: teaching technology abroad](#) Stories of living abroad as an expat add a unique spin to this blog about teaching technology. Kim was "born to travel," but the depth and insight and of her education-oriented posts make you suspect that she really was born to teach.

[Language Castle](#) Preschool students who don't speak English pose a unique challenge for teachers. Karen Nemeth's graduate work in language acquisition, combined with her love for early childhood education, resulted in this blog. In her posts, she shares hints for helping students with different language backgrounds succeed in the classroom and embracing cultural diversity.

[Teach Preschool](#) The bold mission of this blog is to "promote excellence in early childhood education." Deborah, the teacher behind the blog, does exactly that with her posts on lesson plans, each one illustrated by photographs.

[The Preschool Professor](#) This cheery blog is devoted to the "magical" world of preschool.

Written for teachers, posts include practical tips for the daily adventures of the classroom- including potty training.

[Little Illuminations](#) Ayn, a veteran early childhood education teacher, defends her passion with a fail-proof argument: "Where else can you go to work each day and do art, play games, have snack and get hugs regularly AND get paid for it?!" Ayn's blog chronicles her personal journey, and features sage advice for fellow educators.

[Topics in Early Childhood Education](#) Over the past three decades, this Utah Teacher of the Year has held a wide range of jobs in early childhood education. His blog discusses significant issues in the field, and reflects thoughtfully on how they relate to the classroom.

[Early Childhood Education](#) No crayon artwork or ideas for story time on this blog...the content is distinctly political. Dr. Williams reviews political candidates' stances on issues related to early education, sharing his personal correspondence and interviews when possible. This blog does not seem to be updated on a regular basis.

[ICT in Early Education](#) Somewhere on the other side of the world (Ok, New Zealand!) a community school is exploring how technology can strengthen students' ties to the community. This blog is written by a teacher. Most posts include links to TED lectures or other provoking bits of media, so you'll deepen your own education as well.

[My Montessori Journey](#) The lesson ideas on this blog are inspired by the work of Maria Montessori. They focus on natural materials and simplicity, and can be replicated by any teacher or parent.

[Children's Books for ELL Instruction](#) This blog focuses on a very specific niche; each post presents a different book for English as a Second Language instruction, discussing how it can be used for a lesson.

[Teaching Literacy in the Early Years](#) The design of this blog doesn't do the content justice. Each post offers detailed ideas and instructions for teaching literacy to young learners, using technology.

[Look at my Happy Rainbow](#) Male kindergarten teachers are far outnumbered by their female counterparts. This teacher reflects on his journey as a male teaching kindergarten, sharing personal stories from the classroom, with names changed to "protect the (truly) innocent."

[Miss Colleen's Storytime Blog](#) Self-described as a nomadic preschool teacher, this blog muses about life both in the classroom and around Prague. Miss Colleen's stories are deeply personal and honest, showing just how human preschool teachers are.

[Work of Childhood](#) The main character in this blog is "Cheeky," the nickname of the author's young son. Her blog focuses on his learning and development, and she shares the education resources she uses for fun lessons at home. Dr. Seuss's Oobleck can be produced in more manageable quantities in your own home, evidently!

[School in the Kitchen](#) This devoted mother is homeschooling her children. She shares lesson plans, information on developmental psychology, and the highs and lows of her brave endeavor. The pictures of her "preschool" in action capture the imaginative world she's created for her loved ones.

[Pocket Full of Posies](#) With dedicated sections for real life learning, alphabet activities,

and printables, this mom knows her stuff when it comes to educational fun (there's even a section for "frugal fun!"). In her posts, she shares her lessons, and adds pictures of the related activities.

[Centers and Circle Time](#) If you're searching for a crafty activity for your class, this blog will help you find one. As a bonus, most of these activities can be done with the supplies already in your classroom art closet.

[Classroom Book of the Week](#) Every week, Kate posts a recently published children's book. She also includes a multiple-intelligences teaching unit about the book, so every can learn from it.

[Waldorf in the Home](#) Rudolph Steiner's approach to education is supported by a devoted community of teachers and families. This blog is for parents, focusing on continuing the Waldorf education after class has ended.

[Reality 101](#) Sponsored by the Council for Exceptional Children and written by a collective of teachers with less than 3 years experience teaching students with special needs, this blog focuses on the challenges of and tools for working effectively with this population.

[Teaching Village](#) Barbara's passion is for teaching English to young learners. This blog focuses on integrating technology into the classroom to achieve that goal.

[Art and Creativity in Early Childhood Education](#) Anna is truly an advocate for arts in the classroom. When she isn't working in her own studio or conducting art workshops, she posts delightful kid-friendly activities to her blog. You can find handouts, ideas for outdoor art, and lesson plans here.

[Provocations for Early Childhood Education](#) True to its promise to rethink "educational spaces and materials," this blog offers a smorgasbord of inspiration-sparking ideas. Posts range from interesting journal articles to art projects, each one designed to start a worthy conversation. The author is influenced by the Reggio Emilia approach, which shines through in her artistic posts.

[National Science Teachers Association](#) This blog covers all things science: lesson ideas, assessment tools, and debates in the field. The collective of writers who update this blog bring a variety of expertise and perspectives. Check the folder labeled "early years" for the posts on early childhood education.

[2, 4, 6, 8, meet me at the garden gate...](#) After fifteen years of kindergarten teaching, Mrs. McMahon's passion for her profession is still going strong. This blog chronicles the day to day routines of her students, including national PlayDoh day and the start of a new school year. Her own energy and philosophy are evident in posts.

[Teach Science and Math](#) The title says it all. This professor is dedicated to supporting K-12 math teachers, and does so by sharing online resources for classroom use. Each posts offers practical ideas for taking the discussion into the classroom, and links to examples and other bits of useful info.

[Art Lessons for Kids](#) This bi-lingual blog is also available in Spanish! In addition to a beautiful layout and design, each post is full of artsy content that will inspire you to *create*. Since photographs illustrate each step of the featured project, you can't possibly go wrong.

[Angela Maiers](#) Having spent 20 years in the education field, Angel's personal blog is full of insights into the "big picture" of school; to grade or not to grade, school management vs. leadership, etc. Her posts are a treasure-trove of well-edited resources, linking you to the major thinkers and ideas within each issue.

[Dr. Z Reflects](#) Dr. Z tackles tough issues that impact the daily lives of teachers, such as merit pay and internet filtering, along with posts on technology. Each update links to the articles and other media that shaped his thinking, so you know exactly where he's coming from.

[Free Range Kids](#) For something out of the box, try exploring this blog on raising self-reliant children. Lenore is well-known for her progressive views on education, and the value of real-life, hands-on experience. Search "early childhood" for her posts on young learners.

[Reflections on Teaching](#) This candid blog is written by Ms. Mercer, an elementary computer lab teacher. She blogs about integrating technology into the curriculum, and personal reflections on class projects and progress.

[Teach Paperless](#) This blog began with the humble mission of teaching teachers to go paperless in their classrooms, and quickly grew to cover other topics related to digital culture. Resources for going paperless are presented in a friendly way. If you'd just like to experiment with one day of paperless teaching, you can find links to how 1500 classrooms celebrated a paperless earth day last year.

[An Insider's Guide to Education for Parents](#) With a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology and an M.B.A. , both from Stanford, Dr. Yalow knows her subject material well. She blogs about issues in early childhood education, including policy, current research in the field, and innovation programs to popularize best practices.

[MoonChild](#) Waldorf schools take a unique approach to early childhood education. Sarah, a Waldorf educator, writes reflective, thoughtful posts about loving kids, and how to spend time with them in meaningful ways.

[Teach a Gifted Kid](#) Parents and teachers of gifted students will find this blog to be a gem. Written by a teacher, it explores teaching strategy, special issues faced by gifted learners, philosophy, and politics.

[A Geeky Momma's Blog](#) With over twenty-five years experience in elementary school education, this sassy teacher has something to say. In humorous posts, she blogs candidly about the daily life of teaching, and tools for doing it with joy and excellence.

[Successful Teaching](#) Promising "strategies and ideas for successful teaching," this blog delivers just that. Each post includes a personal story from 30 years of teaching special education, and links to related resources.

[iLearn Technology](#) After a year teaching second grade and five years teaching k-5 technology, this blogger found her passion for helping teachers "fall in love with technology" in the same way as their students. Her blog is brimming with ideas and inspiration. If you haven't already committed to technology, subscribing to these posts is a great first step.

[Montessori Free For All](#) This mother is raising her preschooler using the educational philosophies of Maria Montessori. Her blog follows her adventures of bringing

Montessori out the classroom and into her daily life.

[Steve Spangler](#) Ranked as the 18<sup>th</sup> most influential person in 2006 by TIME Magazine, this teacher's love for science burst onto the national scene when his internet video on the [Mentos Geyser Experiment](#) went viral. His blog offers creative advice for getting young learners psyched about scientific research and experimentation.

[Creating Lifelong Learners](#) This teacher has a passion for incorporating technology into his classroom. He shares his knowledge on everything from downloading YouTube movies to how to set a class of young students up for paying attention to a movie (instead of spacing out...) in this regularly updated blog.

[Education Technology Blog](#) Curious about the latest tools for incorporating technology into your classroom? This blog focuses on recent developments in the tech world, and how they apply to K-12 education. Each post links to well-researched and relevant resources.

### **The Top 5 Blogs about Learning Disabilities**

[ADHD & LD Resource Blog](#) is an excellent blog for people looking for more information about not only ADHD, but other learning disabilities as well.

[Dyslexia Blog](#) provides information for parents of children with dyslexia. The wide-ranging articles and information are an excellent source for parents who want to help their children succeed.

[Dyslexia My Life](#) is a comprehensive blog about one person's experience with dyslexia, as well as resources and information about the disability.

[Dyslexia Victoria Online](#) provides excellent information about all things dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia.

[The Dee Zone](#), with a subtitle of "Musings of an ADHD Mind," is written by a blogger who has dyslexia and dysgraphia. Check out this incredibly useful blog for advice, tips, and encouragement for living with learning disorders.