

TEACHER STRATEGIES

In the table below are some teacher roles that can be used with children in the classroom. Each role has a defined focus as a strategy to use when teaching. Oftentimes, strategies can be used in combination with each other to meet the needs of the children the teacher is working with.

Teacher Strategy	Examples of the Strategy Focus
Responder	Aware that the children are interested in creating a block structure that will resemble their field trip, the teacher provides some additional props for the children to select.
Risk-taker	The teacher encourages children to experiment with ideas by verbalizing a risky decision. "I'm not sure if it will work if I add this color, but I think I will try."
Documenter	The teacher observes two children wishing to use the same swing. One of the children is especially verbal in articulating how they could solve this problem. The teacher takes a moment to write this down in the child's file for future reference.
Researcher	During a discussion, the teacher models how to locate information in resource books.
Interpreter	The teacher observes a young child who is not yet comfortable with sharing his or her feelings about the use of a toy. The teacher steps in and says to the other children, "I think Gabrielle would really like a turn, wouldn't you Gabrielle?" The child nods her head in response and one of the children responds, "OK, we didn't know."
Provoker	The teacher is watching a child sort bears of various sizes by color, joins the child in the activity, and then suggests another way to sort. The teacher sorts a few by size and waits to see the child's reaction.

Scribe	A child tells a story about an event that occurred at home overnight that appears to be of some concern to the child. The teacher suggests that the child draw a picture, and then tell the teacher the ideas that she wants to put down on the paper.
Learning Partner	The teacher joins a child in completing a puzzle. Both clap when it is finished.
Problem Solver	The writing area is not big enough for all the children interested in writing. The teacher sits with those who want to write and helps to brainstorm the fairest way to ensure that everyone gets a turn.
Observer	The teacher notices children in the library area role-playing the reading of a story. After watching their activity, the teacher documents it for their files.
Questioner	Following a story, the teacher uses three pictures from the story to ask the children what happened first, next and last.
Listener	The teacher engages a child in conversation, giving his or her full attention.
Creator	The teacher moves about on the playground conversing and suggesting to children that they try certain equipment.
Evaluator	The teacher initiates a game with two- and three- step directions, noticing which of the children can handle as many as three steps.
Communicator	The teacher converses and shares with each child as they enter the classroom in the morning, demonstrating that all children are recognized equally and accepted into the group.

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