



Tips for Extending Dinosaur Curriculum Beyond Specific Lesson Plans



Tip #1: First follow the curriculum plan for Year 1 and 2

We recommend that schools follow the lesson plans for year 1 and 2. If the program is started when children are 3 or 4 years of age, the Year 1 lessons can be used for two years in a row. Children this young will benefit from the repetition of material and the classroom teachers can make developmentally appropriate decisions about how to present the material in these lessons. Otherwise, the Year 1 lesson plans can be started in kindergarten or 1st grade with Year 2 lesson plans following in 1st or 2nd grade. This provides flexibility to use the curriculum from preschool through grade 2 (ages 3-7 years). After children have been exposed to 2-3 years of the structured lesson plans, they will be very comfortable with the circle time discussions and role plays. At this point, the teacher can lead the children in less structured problem solving groups using the format of discussion, solution generation, and role-play. Some suggestions for topics for these sessions are listed below.



Tip #2: Choosing themes for circle time discussions

The themes for these discussions can be derived in three ways:

- **Child initiated.** Students volunteer problems they are experiencing and ask their friends to help solve these problems.
- **Teacher initiated.** Teachers will be aware of issues that are unique for their classrooms and can bring up these topics for the class to problem solve. (Remember, the puppets are an excellent way to introduce a new problem).

- **Initiated from the advance cue cards.** There are 42 advanced solution cards with topics ranging from “have the courage to do the right thing” to “forgive”. At circle time one of these cards could be selected as the theme to discuss by the class.

By the time students are in 3rd grade and understand the problem solving process, there are a variety of other topics that can be included for discussions. These circle time discussions should follow the same format of discussing, practicing, and role playing, followed by some writing or art activity that reinforces the concepts being discussed. Here are a few ideas:

- Good Touch and Bad Touch
- Having the Courage to do What is Right
- Forgive
- Taking Responsibility
- Being Generous
- Doing Your Best in School
- Being Loyal to a Friend
- Good Sportsmanship