

Using Webbing for Lesson Planning

The purpose of webbing is to preplan by brainstorming ideas for your lesson plans. A concept web is a visual map that serves as a guide for future direction and planning. Concept webs are created simply by brainstorming concepts and ideas related to a given theme or “big idea”. If at all possible, collaborate with other people; multiple minds are always better than one—and a lot more fun!

Your web can be simple or complex.

- Webbing helps you build on a basic “big idea”.
- Webbing illustrates how each idea builds off another.
- Webbing helps you think outside of the box.
- Webbing helps you know where your lesson plans are weak and where they are strong.

A web does not look like a traditional, linear lesson plan, but instead takes the ideas and interests of the children into account.

The web begins with one very broad big idea and then branches out into several smaller themes. Each of these branches can then have an infinite number of branches. Each of these branches, in turn, can have branches. In other words, it can be an ever-evolving lesson plan as long as the children's interest is piqued.

An early childhood webbing curriculum is often easiest to implement when you are well aware of the children's interests and developmental level. Be sure to ask the children for ideas when creating your webbing curriculum.

In every web you want to start with the middle of the web. The middle of the web is the core idea or big idea that you will build all other parts of the web from.

The big idea (middle circle) can be adjusted to meet the planning needs specific to your situation. You can add more lines to each of the outside circles and at the end of each line, add more ideas.

An example of a webbing template is located on the back of this page. You can make your own web by starting with a “big idea” that your children are interested in and then simply brainstorm content-rich ideas related to that big idea. Then you and the children can plan activities, introduce new toys/equipment, read books, graph, draw, paint, dance, tell stories, write poems, take field trips, sing songs, cook food, invite guest speakers, and do research as long as the children continue to be interested. The sky is the limit!

CONCEPT WEBBING

