

From Chaos to Control

Room Set Up:

Chairs placed in semi-circle.

Tape Alphabet Letters around room. (Talking points on the back of each letter.)

Place CHAOS handout on each chair before conferees arrive.

Conference:

Ask conferees to write adjectives beginning with each of the letters on the sheet that describe things that cause chaos in their room.

Suggestions:

C – clutter, cell phones; chatter

H – heat, hunger

A – air, action, art

O – open doors, old ideas

S – stuff, silliness, sharing (lack of)

Some of these things are not necessarily bad things...some may just be part of a preschool classroom. Our job is to discern what chaos is and what is characteristic of a preschooler.

Separate into groups of equal size. Give each group a 3 sets of foam letters (or letter tiles). Ask them to spell out words that describe children and preschoolers in their class. Mention the following if not included in the answers given by conferees.

- Active
- Curious
- Literal-minded
- Sensitive
- Self-focused
- Limited Attention Span
- Creative
- Explores Limits

Read Book: *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs* – Talk about how we jump to conclusions when a child is labeled.

Handout:: The ABC's of Guiding Behavior

Using the points on the back of the ABC cards, talk about each letter and how it describes ways to help change the atmosphere in the classroom from chaos to control. Give examples from your own experiences with preschoolers.

Remind conferees that nothing works every time, but that following these simple steps can put them on the road to having control in their classroom and to helping kids develop self-discipline. Close in prayer.