

# O C T O B E R N E W S L E T T E R INVITATIONS FOR LEARNING

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## *Calendar Time is only for people who have appointments to keep*

**When is the last time you heard a young child ask you, "What is the month, date and year?" Time concepts are one of the last cognitive concepts for young children to grasp. Calendars should be introduced when it becomes relevant to children...Do you know adults who still are practicing their calendar skills?**

I was visiting a preschool classroom during a circle time. The teacher displayed a large calendar and began by asking the children to sing a song about the 'Months in the Year'. Then she proceeded to have the children count the number of days on the calendar that had past. If that was not enough she then proceeded to have the children shout, out loud, the current date, including the month, day and year. As I sat and observed the children, some of them began to fidget. I began to reflect on how often I didn't know what date it was, but somehow made it to my appointments.

The only purpose of an activity that would reflect the date, month and year, might be if you were helping

someone remember appointments. As far as I know preschoolers really don't make appointments, do they?

Some adults use the rationale that calendar activities help children recognize numbers, help them think about past and present and acquire skills in predicting. Unless young children can use the information immediately, apply it to their daily life, and have lots of enjoyment participating in the activity it will be pruned from the brain within five minutes.

I am predicting that calendar time for most young children is "lost in space". It is one of the last cognitive skills that children grasp. It becomes important when it becomes relevant....

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# ***Instead of the Calendar:***

*(remember that children are egocentric, if it doesn't impact them, it doesn't exist)*

- **Concepts of present weather** ask children to look out the window to see if they need an umbrella
- **Birthday** the only date in a child's life that is very relevant and he/she thinks it is *NOW*
- **Present happenings** is today school or home?
- **Rituals** that are established by the family or school (ex. Sunday morning is my chocolate chip pancake day)
- **Special days** days that are just for them( ex. going to visit grandma day, or I can't believe I can have "cake" day)

***With young children always stay in the "PRESENT"***