

SOUTHWEST HRA HEAD START

Section: Early Childhood Development
Subject: Classroom Calendars
Revised: February, 1998; February 2010

REGULATION REFERENCE:

45 CFR Part 1304 (Nov. 1996) Performance Standards 1304.21(a)(1)(ii), 1304.21(c)(1)(ii)

POLICY:

Teachers will use a calendar chart during large group time in the early part of morning activities. The objective for calendar use is to help children gradually learn to recognize numerals, understand number concepts, and understand how we keep track of time in days, weeks, months, and years.

The classroom calendar should have detachable numbers that can be put on each day, one at a time. The names of the months and days of the week will be spelled out completely.

PROCEDURE:

1. When using the calendar, teachers will:
 - a. Place the numbers on one day at a time rather than putting all the numbers on at the beginning of the month.
 - b. Saturday and Sunday can either be added during Monday's calendar discussion or on Friday (variety in handling this is helpful).
 - c. Place symbols for holidays or numbers for birthdays and other special days on the calendar at the beginning of the month.
2. Teachers should be creative in making and using the classroom calendar! Other suggestions for use of the calendar:
 - a. Discuss what day yesterday was and what day tomorrow will be.
 - b. Count the number of days until a holiday or other special occasion that the children are looking forward to, such as a field trip or birthday.
 - c. Discuss the month in the context of the season, noting the expected weather and appropriate clothing.
 - d. Include songs, fingerplays, and other activities that use the days of the week and months of the year in activities with children.
 - e. **Avoid "drilling."**