

## Variety and pace in the pre-primary classroom

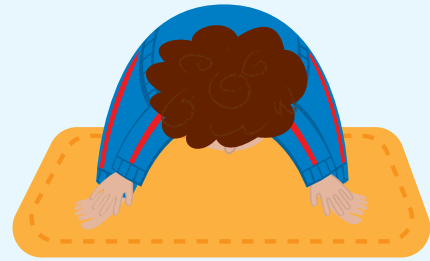
From *Little Learning Stars Teacher's Guide* by Jeanne Perret

Very small children need **constant changes** in activity and they cannot concentrate on one task for a long time. Ideally, you should **plan activities in five to ten-minute slots**, and be prepared to juggle them, depending on the mood of the class. **Small children are affected by lots of things**, such as changes in the weather, whether they have had breakfast, etc. and they can also **sense the mood** of their teacher and their peers.

Children aged two to three cannot sit still for very long so the teaching notes in *Learning Stars* include ideas for physical activities and games, e.g. there is a yoga pose at the end of each unit which the children will enjoy trying to copy.

Young children also need **changes in your tone of voice** to keep them interested. **Avoid shouting** as this will merely stress you and the children and increase the noise level in the classroom. Also monitor your **'teacher-talk'** – the more you do, the less the children will be able to speak English, so after the initial settling in at the beginning of the year, **monitor how much talking** you are doing **and adjust** it if the balance is wrong.

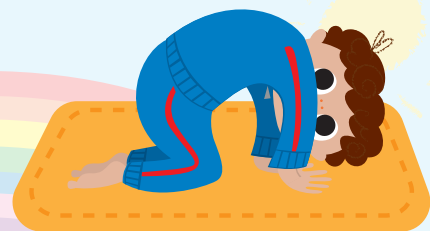
We've taken a few of the animal yoga poses for you to try with your class from *Little Learning Stars*!



Bat pose



Rabbit pose



Cat pose



Horse pose



Butterfly pose



Fish pose