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## The Key to Successful Preschool Teaching

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**Sharon's book, *More Than Movement*, has proven to be a helpful resource for teachers. She has also produced two useful videos, "Party Games" and "Indoor Games." Call 1-800-399-2637.**

*Will a facility equipped with colorful preschool equipment assure a high quality program? Will a variety of fun, interesting props and hand manipulatives bring success? Are elaborate and catchy themes the answer? Is a strong background in gymnastics the key element? All of these are essential to the program, but without a good understanding of the preschool child, there will be problems.*

An informed teacher can conduct a good preschool class in a less than desirable facility, but an uninformed teacher will have trouble teaching preschoolers in a state-of-the-art facility.

Children have a variety of learning styles and teachers need to consider this when they give directions. For example: the visual-spatial learner will have a difficult time following verbal instruction. A teacher could tell a visual-spatial learner something ten times and they would still have trouble understanding the concept. Positive, healthy discipline will bring immediate order to the class. Using positive communication, a teacher will keep control of the class, and make it impossible for any children to draw all the attention to themselves.

Get further information so you better understand the preschool child. Remember this key element. You've come to the gym to teach preschool children first and cartwheels second. When you teach to the needs of the preschool child first, the cartwheels will automatically come.

**COACHES:** Please submit your conditioning ideas to the Reebok Coaching Corner, c/o USA Gymnastics, Pan American Plaza, 201 S. Capitol Ave., Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46225.

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