

***Using films from the  
Rochester International Children's Film Festival:  
Ten Helpful Hints from Teachers Like You***

You have access to the wonderful films from the ***Rochester International Children's Film Festival***, but you are wondering how you can use them in a developmentally appropriate way. The following helpful hints were collected from veteran teachers in the field who have used the films to capture the interest of children and provide the environment and follow-up that supports children's intellectual, creative, emotional, and physical development. Please place these hints in your "toolbox" to help you make decisions about using the films in a developmentally appropriate way.

For classroom use:

1. Always preview the films prior to showing to children.
2. Note vocabulary in the films that may be new to children; make a list of familiar synonyms.
3. Show one or two films at a time, rather than showing them all at once— it may take a week or two to screen individual films in order to engage children in the learning and follow-up activities. And, you do not have to screen all of them – just the ones you feel are relevant!
4. Show film's title page, pause, read the title, and have children make predictions about the title and image shown on the screen.
5. When viewing the film with children, note children's vocabulary and predictions. Compare predictions with film's events, and check for children's understanding of the film. Discuss the films with the children. Ask questions along the lines of: "What was the message?" "How did the characters feel?" "What helped you know that?"
6. Select literature to accompany a film: compare and contrast the film and literature selection. A Venn diagram is one way to convey this.
7. Act out the film and/or the literature story as a large or small group activity, depending upon the story line of either.
8. Incorporate parts of the films in the areas within the classroom: Examples: if an animated film uses colored chalk on black background, have those material available; if a film features dance, play the dance music again during choice time. For a film about cooking, provide a couple of aprons, whisks and bowls.
9. Provide multi-sensory materials for children to write letters and new vocabulary words from the film.
10. Enjoy the films with your children. Laugh out loud. Talk them through the sad part. End with a smile.

By trying out these Helpful Hints, the classroom program can be enriched. Let us know if you have found other ways to creatively use the films. We can add your hints to our list!