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!