

# SELF-DIRECTING SYMBOL CHARTS

## Advantages

### Self-Direction

1. Teacher's way of guiding child's activity in a centers approach program.
2. Children learn to follow directions.
3. Children learn to plan actions before performing them.
4. Children learn to work independently.

### Beginning Literacy

1. Children begin to associate written symbols with meaning.
2. Children develop left-to-right and top-to-bottom directionality.
3. Written language is presented in a meaningful context.
4. Beginning readers are exposed to simple words.

## Tips and Hints for Making and Using Symbol Charts

1. Introduce charts at group time.
2. Picture symbols should be large and clearly drawn.
3. Wording should be simple and written in correct manuscript form.
4. Chart should move in one direction: either left-to-right or top-to-bottom.
5. Place the picture symbol before the words on preprimary charts and words before pictures on primary level charts.
6. Make charts a convenient size to use and store.
7. Display charts at child's eye level.
8. Make charts colorful. Wording should be in a dark color.
9. Only use charts when needed for guidance. Allow for creativity. Don't provide models on charts.

### Routine Time Charts

Weather  
Calendar  
Helper  
Table Setting  
Bathroom  
Planning  
Center Symbols  
Clean-up

### Learning Center Activity Charts

Universal Symbols  
Red - Stop, Green - Go  
Closed  
Sensory  
Problem Solving  
Same/Different  
Sequence Charts  
Single Direction