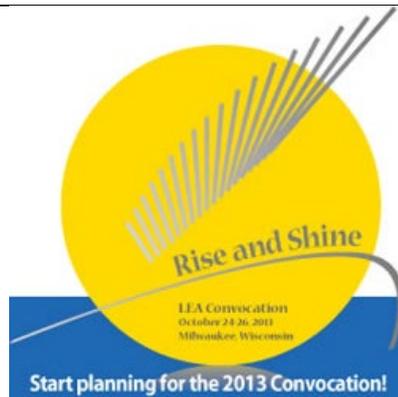




# Shaping the Future



- Fall 2012 ▾
- Letters ▾
- Features ▾
- Networks ▾
- Resources ▾
- Convocation
- LEA Home



## Top Online Resources for Early Childhood Educators

by Julie Faulkner and Melanie Heggemeier



### Pinterest

Who hasn't heard of [Pinterest](#)?! I use Pinterest for personal reasons but especially for ideas for my classroom. Organize your classroom. Use it as a personal, visual filing cabinet. Make a separate "you" from your personal I.D. and share your boards/ideas with parents or colleagues.

### Teach Preschool

"Promoting excellence in early childhood education" is the goal of the [Teach Preschool](#) website. Written by Deborah Stewart, this thoughtful, well-researched, and organized blog/website will provide hours of inspiration. Be sure to follow Deborah on Pinterest.

### Teaching Blog Addict

I admit it.... I love to read teacher blogs! Is it because I feel so isolated in my own classroom as a Lutheran educator? How can I run down the hall and peek into my colleague's classroom when no one around me teaches my grade? Blogs let me do just that! [Teaching Blog Addict](#) finds the "best of the best" blogs and organizes them by grade level.

### Ministry to Ministry Blogs

Here is another blog site that is geared toward [ministry to children](#).

### ABCya

Designed by a teacher, [ABCya.com](#) offers free educational learning games which are designed to provide an interactive element to children's learning.

The easy to navigate site with each grade (K-5) level is broken down into content categories: Letters, Numbers, More (shapes, social studies, art), and Holidays. I like how one lesson can incorporate math, language arts, and computer skills, yet the kids think they're just having fun. My 3 and 4K students used the K grade without any problems. My audio learners appreciated the sound that added to the learning, not just background noise.



### Dr. Jean

Ten years ago, I heard Dr. Jean at a workshop and I still incorporate many ideas she presented in my classroom today. It was that good. Reinforcing learning concepts through song and developing classroom management techniques is her strength. Dr.



Visit and evaluate two or three of the websites suggested. Share your perceptions with colleagues.



Other articles you might be interested in in this issue of **Shaping the Future**:

[A Day in the Life](#) by [Paul Miller and Carrie Miller](#) (Feature)

[The Case for Lutheran Christian Early Childhood Education](#) by [Dr. Martin Barlau](#) (Feature)

[Evaluation: Bane or Blessing?](#) by [Neil Sandfort](#) (LEADnet)

Jean's [home page](#) and [blog](#) are filled with many downloads and inspiration.

## Watch Know Learn

[Watchknowlearn.org](#) has organized over 33,000 high quality educational videos in 3,000 categories for students of all ages and is kid safe.

## National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Every professional should be an active member of a research-based organization in their field. I recommend [The National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\)](#). Filled with research backed resources, ideas, and up to date information, it is a go-to site.

## Smart Exchange

[Smart Exchange](#) is the one place to stop if you have an interactive whiteboard. Chances are the lesson you are thinking of designing has already been created! Peruse for inspiration and leave your lessons for the next teacher.

## Promethean Planet

[The Promethean Planet](#) is also here to save the day for promethean users. Many tips and practical advice shared within this teacher community.

## Starfall

[Starfall](#) uses motivation along with phonemic awareness, systematic phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension for early literacy instruction. It is a great site for students to manipulate on their own but also a great teaching tool. The [Calendar](#) is an interactive learning site my 4K students like to visit each morning.

## Education World: The Educator's Best Friend

[Education World: The Educator's Best Friend](#) has lesson plans, new technology, professional development, and more. It's full of resources in an easy-to-navigate format with a special section geared toward ECE.



## Stopwatch

[Stopwatch Classroom Timers](#) has multiple different online timers to use in your classroom. Put them up on your smartboard when you are approaching a transition time such as the end of centers or snack time. You can also use one during centers so the students can visually see how much time remains before they need to be done with a task.

## PBS Kids

[PBS Kids](#) has some activities that are too advanced for some students, but it offers many different child-directed games that advance literacy, mathematical, and following-directions skills.

## Classroom blogging

I use [blogger.com](#), but know teachers who use other sites. Whichever site you choose, I believe strongly in a classroom blog. My site is set to "private" so only people who have been invited in can view the blog. It is a great way to share pictures and moments from within the classroom.

## We Give Books

[We Give Books](#) is a great site, especially if you have access to a projector or smartboard. The site has many different books that are able to be fully read to your class. It turns pages similar to reading a paper book.

## Printable Bible Stories

There are many different items that can be printed for bible stories on [Bible Story Printables](#). It has many different coloring pages but a lot of other items that can be printed for classroom use as well.

## Prekinders

[Prekinders](#) has a multitude of teacher resources from printables to theme ideas to classroom tips and even assessment ideas. It is a great site to get ideas of how to develop lessons within your classroom.

## Teachers Pay Teachers

[Teachers Pay Teachers](#) is a place for teachers to post resources they are selling but also resources they are giving away for free. It

has free printables, items you can change, and many different items that you can download to your computer. It has items you can pay for such as books and bigger resources. It also allows you to post items you want to sell or give away to other teachers for them to be able to use.

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