

DOMAIN 1: APPROACHES TO LEARNING AND COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

SUB-DOMAIN: LEARNING APPROACHES

CURIOSITY, MOTIVATION, EXPLORATION, AND EXPERIMENTATION

GOAL 1: CHILDREN SHOW CURIOSITY AND INTEREST IN LEARNING AND EXPERIMENTING.

Age Range	Developmental Growth	Child Indicators	Caregiver Strategies
<p>36 to 60 Months</p>	<p>Becomes inquisitive; seeks information and vocabulary to build understanding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Asks others for information (e.g. "What is that?" "Why is the moon round?"). ▪ Investigates and organizes materials (e.g. uses matching, sorting, and grouping). ▪ Shows interest in how and why others do things. ▪ Builds a vocabulary of nouns, verbs, and descriptors including adjectives and adverbs, to bring understanding to words and actions. ▪ Uses "wh" questions to get additional information about how their world works (why, who, what, where, and when). ▪ Develops personal interests (trains, animals, dinosaurs). ▪ Actively engages in play and putting materials together to test end results. ▪ Uses fantasy and reality to explain phenomenon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offer many sensory play opportunities using textures, mixing substances, block play, and dramatic play. ▪ Provide opportunities for child to explore a variety of activities and materials, including those in the larger community and those from diverse cultures. ▪ Schedule adequate time for child initiated play and exploration. ▪ Identify and build on child's individual interests. ▪ Teach children to be observers and recorders of what they observe. ▪ Offer writing tools and art materials for recording observations. ▪ Provide open-ended materials such as blocks and building materials, liquids for pouring and mixing, various art mediums, digital technologies (cameras, recording devices), and microscopes/magnifiers. ▪ Offer time and settings for child to talk about and display ideas where adults and other children listen and respond. ▪ Help child use vocabulary that leads to exploration (e.g. exploring together), offer open-ended questions and comments (e.g. "I wonder...?" "How could that work?" "What do you think about...?" or "What ideas do you have?"). ▪ Read about topics of interest with the child (trucks, insects, and gardening) to demonstrate how and where

			<p>people find information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learn about internet resources that are child-appropriate for finding answers to questions and finding images that offer exploration opportunities. ▪ Play question-and-answer games that inspire child's curiosity. ▪ Elaborate and embellish a child's utterances (Child says, "I rode the trike." Adult responds, "Yes, you rode on the tricycle with two small wheels and one large wheel.").
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