



LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS THAT RESPOND TO CHILDREN'S INTERESTS

LEARN ABOUT CHILDREN'S INTERESTS

- Use data from formal and informal observations during free play, outdoor play time, and conversations at mealtimes, to learn about children's interests*
- Discuss with families their observations of children's interests:
 - What objects and materials do children prefer to explore?
 - What ideas or topics they enjoy talking about?
 - In what activities do older children engage for long periods of time?
- Identify any recent situations, events, or ideas that have captured the children's attention (e.g., nearby construction, visiting community member)
- Consider the knowledge, skills, and concepts they have that kept their interests



REVIEW YOUR CURRICULUM'S GUIDANCE ON LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

- Physical space and learning materials
 - How can you use your curriculum's guidance on setting up the physical space and learning materials to include children's interests?
- Learning centers
 - How can you use the learning centers suggested by the curriculum to build on children's interests?
- Schedules and routines
 - How can you include children's interests in daily routines and small or large group times?



IMPLEMENT YOUR CURRICULUM RESPONSIVELY BASED ON CHILDREN'S INTERESTS

- Observe and reflect on children's engagement with the learning environment:
 - Which learning materials do children use most and keep them most engaged? What materials could you use that reflect children's interests or home environments?
 - Which learning centers do children visit most often and work in for long periods of time?
 - Does your schedule allow enough time for children to focus and explore their interests for extended periods of time?
- Repeat this process, as children's interests may vary over time, as they are exposed to new ideas and topics

