



LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND INTERACTIONS THAT RESPOND TO CHILDREN'S INTERESTS

LEARN ABOUT CHILDREN'S INTERESTS

Use data you gather from formal and informal observations during work time, outdoor play time, and conversations at mealtimes, to learn about children's interests. Discuss with families what children enjoy doing at home and in the community.

- Reflect on the data and identify themes:
 - What objects and materials do children enjoy exploring?
 - What ideas or topics do they enjoy talking about?
 - In what activities do they engage for long periods of time?
 - Which recent situations, events, or ideas have captured the children's attention (e.g., a construction site, a visit from a community worker)?
 - What did families share about their children's interests?
- Consider the knowledge, skills, and concepts that help them sustain their interests



REVIEW YOUR CURRICULUM'S GUIDANCE ON LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND INTERACTIONS

- Plan learning experiences and interactions that reflect children's interests
 - Modify the learning experience so that it supports the same skills or concepts, but it reflects children's interests—consider how these learning experiences promote school readiness across the ELOF domains
 - Include children's interests in learning experiences that promote language, literacy, and cognitive development
 - Plan interactions that build on children's interests to promote sustained engagement

MONDAY: Small Groups

Building a Tree House

Skills and Concepts: counting with one-to-one correspondence, measurement, cause and effect, persistence and sustained attention

Materials: Wooden unit blocks, rulers, "Build a Tree House" poster

Post and review the directions on the "Build a Tree House" poster. Place several wooden unit blocks in the center of the table. Ask the children "Do you remember when we read *Squirrel Builds a Tree House*?" Have children share what they remember about the book and the steps for building the tree house. Tell the children that today they will work in pairs to build a tree house using unit blocks. Show the poster and review the steps with them. As they build together, narrate their actions, encourage them to count aloud, and ask open-ended questions about their process (e.g., "What do you think will happen if you...?"). Encourage children to measure their tree houses to check if they are the same or different than the tree house on the poster.



IMPLEMENT YOUR CURRICULUM RESPONSIVELY BASED ON CHILDREN'S INTERESTS

- Build on children's interests as you implement the learning experience with children of all ages, including infants
 - Draw children's attention to the ways the learning experience relates to their lives and interests
 - Use open-ended, thought-provoking questions to extend children's explorations and engagement
 - Notice situational interests that emerge during learning experiences
- Repeat this process, as children's interests may vary as they develop new knowledge, skills, and concepts, and as they are exposed to new ideas and topics

