



ARTICLES

Dunst, Carl J., Tara Jones, Molly Johnson, Melinda Raab, & Deborah W. Hamby. 2011. "The Role of Children's Interests in Early Literacy and Language Development." *Center for Early Literacy Learning Reviews* 4(5). http://earlyliteracylearning.org/cellreviews/cellreviews_v4_n5.pdf.

This article describes findings from a study of the relationship between toddlers' and preschoolers' interests and language and literacy outcomes. It highlights how children's interests can be incorporated into early language and literacy learning experiences and activities.

National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. 2018. "Understanding Motivation: Building the Brain Architecture that Supports Learning, Health, and Community Participation: Working Paper No. 14." *The Center for the Developing Child*. <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/understanding-motivation-building-the-brain-architecture-that-supports-learning-health-and-community-participation>.

This report describes how young children are intrinsically motivated by exploration, active involvement in play, and achieving success or mastery of a task. When children can pursue tasks that are personally meaningful or choose how to complete tasks, they are more motivated to engage and persist.

WEB RESOURCES

Using Scope and Sequence to Plan Responsive Learning Experiences for Infants and Toddlers
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/using-scope-sequence-responsive-learning-infants-toddlers.pdf>

This brief describes how home visitors can use their curriculum's scope and sequence to plan responsive learning experiences for infants and toddlers and their families.

Interest-Based learning: Following the Children's Leads
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/following-childrens-lead>

This 15-minute in-service suite describes ways to build on children's interests, provide children with choices, and encourage children to express their ideas. The result is increased motivation and desire to lead on the part of children. Though the examples are from center-based and family child care settings, home visitors support families as they use these strategies in home visits and socialization experiences.

BOOKS

Institute of Medicine & National Research Council. 2015. *Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.
<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/19401/transforming-the-workforce-for-children-birth-through-age-8-a>

Chapters 4 and 6 provide useful information for education staff about the role of interests in motivation and children's learning. A free PDF download is available on the web site.