



PLANNING TO BUILD ON CHILDREN'S INTERESTS

This activity helps you implement your curriculum responsively, based on children's situational and personal interests.

Your curriculum may provide some guidance about incorporating children's interests, but you must use children's interests to make these curriculum resources meaningful. By building on children's interests, you can support children's learning across the ELOF domains.

Think about a child and family you work with. Use this handout to gather and record information about situational and personal interests. You can also use this activity in your individual planning or consider sharing this activity with your planning team, coach, or supervisor.

NOTICE AND LEARN ABOUT THE CHILD'S INTERESTS

SITUATIONAL INTERESTS:

During your work with this child and family, what situational interests have emerged? (e.g., Is the child interested in the construction in his neighborhood or near the socialization site? Has the child recently experienced something outside the home that sparked an interest, such as a family trip or a local festival?)

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PERSONAL INTERESTS:

- Observe during home visits and socializations. What materials does the child use regularly?
- Talk to the child's family. Ask the family to share what the child likes to do at home and in the community.

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ANALYSIS:

Review what you have recorded above. What did you notice about the child's personal and situational interests? How are they related? Throughout the rest of the activity, plan to use the curriculum's resources responsively based on the child's interests.

EXPLORE WHAT YOUR PROGRAM'S CURRICULUM OFFERS

- What, if any, guidance does your curriculum offer on planning learning experiences that build on children's interests?
- What specific curriculum resources might include children's interests? Consider the learning environment, learning experiences, and interactions. Write some specific ideas on your handout.
- How can you partner with families to enhance or modify what the curriculum offers to build on children's situational and personal interests? Consider the learning environments (home and socialization spaces), learning experiences, and parent-child interactions. Write some specific ideas on your handout.

IMPLEMENT THE CURRICULUM RESPONSIVELY BASED ON CHILDREN'S INTERESTS

Based on what you learned about the child's interests and what your curriculum offers, plan to implement something from your curriculum to build on the child's interests. Consider opportunities within home visits and socialization experiences. Think about what ELOF goals are being promoted. Then implement your plan.
