

National Center on
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

Using the 5Rs to Support Initiative and Curiosity in Young Children

Host
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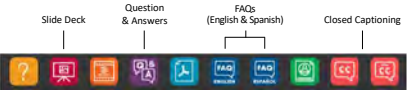
Host
Katie Miller, NCECDTL

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Webinar Features



Slide Deck Question & Answers FAQs (English & Spanish) Closed Captioning

Help Media Player Resource List Speaker Bios



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Leader's Digest

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Learning Objectives

Describe strategies education staff can use to promote initiative and curiosity in young children.

Apply the 5Rs of early learning leaders to promote initiative and curiosity in staff.

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Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework

		CENTRAL DOMAINS			
APPROACHES TO LEARNING		INDIVIDUAL	LANGUAGE AND LITERACY	COGNITION	PERCEPTUAL, MOTOR AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT
INFANT/TODDLER DOMAINS	Approaches to Learning	Individual	Language and Communication	Cognition	Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development
PRESCHOOLER DOMAINS	Approaches to Learning	Individual	Language and Communication Literacy	Mathematics Development Scientific Reasoning	Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development

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Approaches to Learning



Emotional and Behavioral Self-Regulation



Cognitive Self-Regulation



Initiative and Curiosity

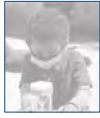


Creativity

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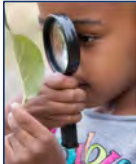
Approaches to Learning




Emotional and Behavioral Self-Regulation



Cognitive Self-Regulation



Initiative and Curiosity



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**Initiative & Curiosity:
Goals for Infants and Toddlers**

Goal IT-ATL 6. Child demonstrates **emerging initiative** in interactions, experiences, and explorations.

Goal IT-ATL 7. Child shows **interest** in and **curiosity** about objects, materials, or events.





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**Initiative & Curiosity:
Goals for Preschoolers**

Goal P-ATL 10: Child demonstrates **initiative** and **independence**.

Goal P-ATL 11: Child shows **interest** in and **curiosity** about the world around them.

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VIDEO: Discovering bugs!



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Reflection

Initiative or Curiosity?

- It s as important as intelligence in student achievement.
- It s as important as persistence in student achievement.
- It supports better job performance.
- It leads to better relationships.
- It helps us live longer.
- It predicts leadership ability.

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It's CURIOSITY!



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We're curious...

How do you keep *yourself* curious?

Enter your responses into the Q & A



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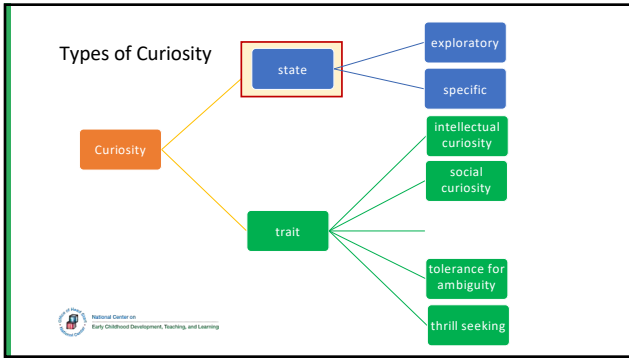


Why are initiative and curiosity important?

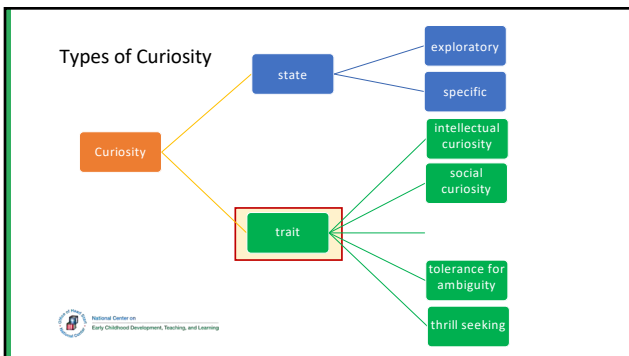
- Curiosity helps children be more observant and to think about things and try to figure them out.
- When children explore their curiosity, they expand their vocabulary as they use language to describe what they're thinking, seeing, hearing or experiencing.
- Greater curiosity in early childhood is associated with greater kindergarten reading and math academic achievement.
- Simply being in a state of heightened curiosity makes us more susceptible to learning new knowledge.




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We're curious...
How do you keep **your staff** curious?
Enter your responses into the Q & A



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Initiative with support

- Initiates interactions with trusted adults
- Uses non-verbal and verbal cues to explore environment with adult support
- Engages others in interactions or shared activities



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Initiative with growing independence

- Shows eagerness to try new things
- Attempts challenging tasks
- Willingness and capability to work independently for increasing amounts of time
- Plans play scenarios by establishing roles for play, using appropriate materials, and generating appropriate scenarios to be enacted

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NCECDTL's 5Rs for Learning Leaders

The 5Rs

-  Relationships
-  Reasons
-  Resources
-  Reflective Dialogue
-  Recognition

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R Relationships

- Build trusting relationships as a base for learning
- Support professional development based on individual choice and need
- Create a safe space for trying new things
- Providing guidance for implementation of best practice; reinforcing best practice; walking the walk by doing rather than directing


Sharing excitement about learning

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Power Dynamics Can Limit Curiosity


- Are educator staff trying to guess what's in your head? Or can they freely respond to what you're asking?
- Do you strengthen and develop others by sharing power and information?
- Do you give others visibility and credit?



Source: <https://www.earlychildhoodlongevity.com>

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Creating Curious Conditions



How adults interact with children significantly influences their openness to exploration.

Even brief interaction with supportive adults can unleash curiosity within children.

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Supporting initiative...

How can we encourage planful risk-taking?

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A purple square icon with white speech bubbles containing 'Q' and 'A' is on the left. The text 'Supporting initiative...' and the italicized question 'How can we encourage planful risk-taking?' are on the right. A small logo is in the bottom left corner.

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R Reflective Dialogue

- Collaborate to make meaning
- Engage in dialogue to promote equity
- Challenge and provoke thinking
- Create a safe space for trying new things

Let's try this!

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A green box with a white 'R' in a circle is at the top left. Below it is a list of four bullet points. To the right is a white box with the text 'Let's try this!'. At the bottom left is a green box with the text 'INITIATIVE & CURIOSITY'. A dashed line connects the bottom of the 'Let's try this!' box to the 'INITIATIVE & CURIOSITY' box. A small logo is in the bottom left corner.

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Reflective Dialogue: **KNOW-WONDER-LEARN MORE**



KWL Approach to PD

- What do we **know**?
- What do we **wonder** about?
- How can we **learn more**?

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Curiosity Principles (Cushman K., 2010)

1. & Embrace not knowing
2. & Ask fewer, but deeper questions
3. & Address "20/80" engagement and replace undirected with directed questions
4. & Use questions to elicit thinking not correct answers
5. & Wait for it
6. & Allow curiosity to be followed



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From "Expert" To Co-Explorer

"Ooooh, did you see that? I wonder what this does?"



What do you think would happen if we tried this strategy?"



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R Resources

- Providing responsive resources and varied, concrete presentation modalities
- Translating theory to practice in doable chunks
- Providing peer learning opportunities
- Seeking external and internal supports for identified needs in the learning environment

Organizational processes and are reflective of a priority value on supporting educational staff's growth.

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Creating Curious Conditions – In-Service Suite on STEAM

- 15-min in-service suite on STEAM.
- Tips for education staff.
- Printable inquiry cards.

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Creating Curious Conditions – Additional In-Service Suites

- Asking Questions
- Feedback Loops
- Following Children's Lead
- Providing Feedback
- Scaffolding Children's Learning
- Using the Scientific Method

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Creating Curious Conditions – Teacher Time





2022 Webinars
 Supporting Curiosity and Initiative in Infants and Toddlers
 Supporting Curiosity and Initiative in Preschoolers

Available on ECLKC now:
 Infant Toddler STEAM Series
 Preschool STEAM Series





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Questions and Answers





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<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us/article/mypeers-social-network-early-childhood-professionals>



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http://bit.ly/iPD_ECLKC

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<https://bit.ly/DTL-PUSHPLAY>

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Thank You!

Join Us For Our
Next Episode!

Tuesday, July 19th
3-4pm ET

*Using the 5Rs to Support
Creativity in Young Children*

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