

Focus on Instructional Supports: Resources to Help Head Start Programs

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Session Objectives

Share with
national Head
Start audience:

- The Office of Head Start's commitment to high quality instructional supports for all children
- Resources to help you focus on and improve the instructional supports and interactions in your programs
- Strategies for using these key resources with education staff

OHS Commitment to
High Quality
Instructional Supports



National Grantee-Level Scores 2018

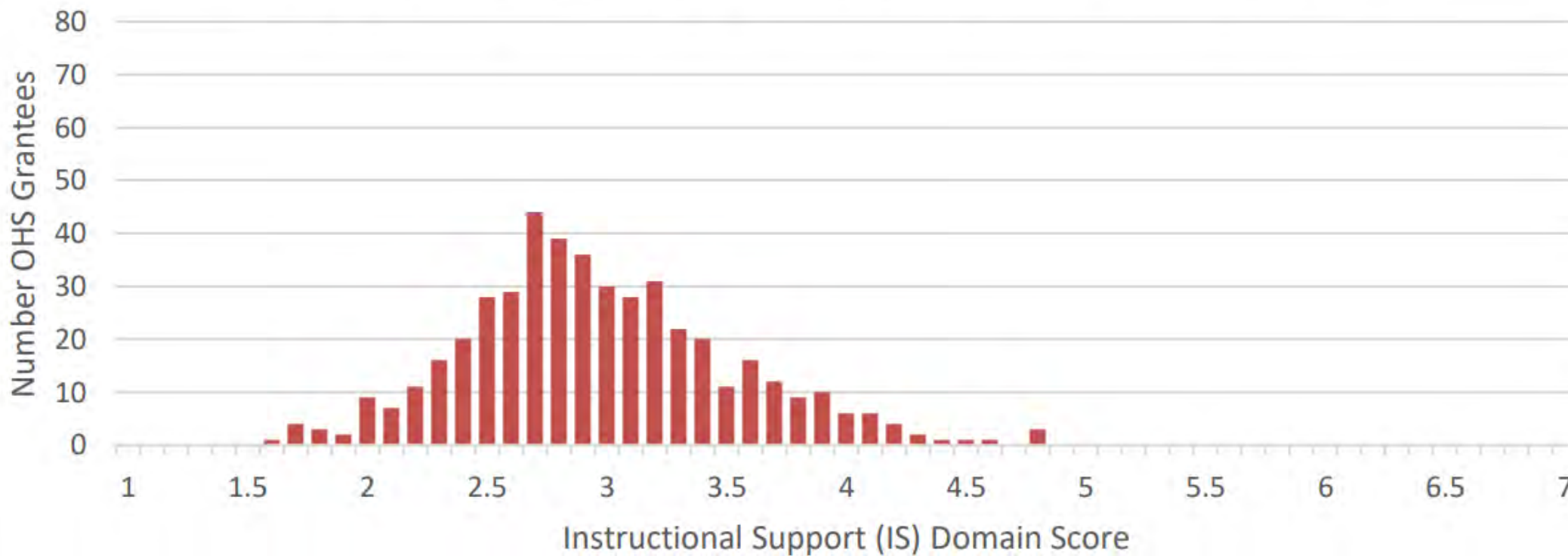
OHS CLASS® Descriptive Statistics, 2018 National Grantee-Level Scores by Dimension					
Domain	Dimension	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Emotional Support	Positive Climate	6.04	0.41	4.45	7.00
	Negative Climate	1.06	0.09	1.00	1.50
	Teacher Sensitivity	5.90	0.43	4.33	7.00
	Regard for Student Perspectives	5.44	0.53	3.00	7.00
Classroom Organization	Behavior Management	5.99	0.43	4.25	7.00
	Productivity	6.10	0.39	4.89	7.00
	Instructional Learning Formats	5.29	0.55	3.00	7.00
Instructional Support	Concept Development	2.44	0.58	1.00	4.42
	Quality of Feedback	2.98	0.62	1.42	4.95
	Language Modeling	3.46	0.62	1.50	5.50

OHS CLASS[®] Descriptive Statistics, 2018 National Grantee-Level Scores by Domain

Domain	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Emotional Support	6.08	0.31	4.75	6.89
Classroom Organization	5.80	0.39	4.41	6.83
Instructional Support	2.96	0.55	1.56	4.83

Instructional Support

Instructional Support, Grantee-Level Distribution 2018



OHS CLASS® Descriptive Statistics, 2018
National Grantee-Level Scores by Dimension

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Why is Concept Development Challenging?

- Promoting children's higher order thinking skills doesn't always come naturally and requires planning



Questions to Encourage Inquiry and Problem Solving

Observe

What do you see / hear?
How do they sound / smell?
How are they the same?
How are they different?
What happens when you try?
You seem curious about...

Question

What are you curious about?
What do you want to know?
Are you wondering if...?

Explore

Let's investigate!
What do you notice?
What is changing?
What did you try?
What do you think will
happen next?
Let's draw what we see.

Predict

What do you think will happen?
What are your predictions?
Why do you think that?
How could we find out?

Reflect

What were your predictions?
What happened?
What did you notice?
Why do you think that happened?
What could we investigate next?

Why is Concept Development Challenging?



Boosting concept development requires integration throughout the day and across learning experiences to help children make connections

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FINDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT WITHIN YOUR CURRICULUM

Curricula may have different ways to guide teachers in supporting children's concept development. A curriculum may provide strategies to help children develop analytical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of concepts. It may also offer children with opportunities to experiment, brainstorm, and create. Strategies and guidance to support concept development may be found in different parts of the curriculum. This may include the curriculum's user guides, activity cards, lesson plans, and volumes with domain-specific information. This handout provides you with some guiding questions to explore the ways your curriculum helps you foster concept development.

ANALYSIS AND REASONING: WHERE IN MY CURRICULUM DOES IT GUIDE ME TO ASK THOUGHT-PROVOKING AND OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS?


EXAMPLES OF WHAT THIS MIGHT LOOK LIKE IN THE CURRICULUM:

- Examples of open-ended questions and prompts that teachers can use to encourage children to describe, explain, predict, or brainstorm during learning experiences, transitions, circle time, and other routines
- Vignettes that illustrate how and when to ask open-ended questions that encourage children to describe observable phenomena, compare and categorize, and make predictions (e.g., What do you think will happen if you put another block on there?)
- Specific resources (e.g. teaching cards) provide examples of different types of questions to extend children's thinking and communication
- Guidance for read-alouds includes prediction questions (e.g., What do you think will happen next? Why?)
- Hands-on, open-ended math and science activities include prompts for children to predict, hypothesize, test and reason



CREATING: WHAT ROUTINES OR LEARNING EXPERIENCES ENGAGE CHILDREN IN PLANNING, BRAINSTORMING, AND GENERATING THEIR OWN IDEAS?

UNDERSTANDING STEAM AND HOW CHILDREN USE IT
CHILDREN ENGAGE IN STEAM EVERY DAY
SUPPORTING STEAM LEARNING
ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER STEAM LEARNING
FIND OUT MORE




Understanding STEAM and how children use it

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math.

Each of STEAM's five subjects share a common approach and focus. They require gathering and using evidence to create knowledge or solve problems. STEAM learning happens naturally everyday as children explore, play, and try new things. When young children have the opportunity to investigate the world around them, they learn and experiment with new STEAM skills and theories. Research shows there is a positive relationship between early STEAM experiences and future success in school.

This document provides an interactive learning experience and is intended as a professional development resource to help supervisors, coordinators, managers, and education staff* understand how young children engage with STEAM concepts and ideas. This document will also help adults identify strategies for exploring and developing STEAM in early learning settings.

* We use the term "education staff" to refer to all adults who work with young children and their families in an educational environment. This includes center-based teachers, family child care providers, and home visitors.



NATIONAL CENTER ON
Early Childhood Development, Teaching and Learning



<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/steam-ipdf.pdf>

Supporting Learning Across Domains

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



What are your
questions?

Why is Concept Development Challenging?

- Engaging in high level back and forth interactions and conversation takes time



Identifying Effective Instructional Practices

- Imitation and Symbolic Representation and play
- Counting and Cardinality
- Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- Measurement
- Geometry and Spatial Sense
- Scientific Inquiry
- And More!

EFFECTIVE
PRACTICE
GUIDES



<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/effective-practice-guides/introduction>

Identifying Effective Instructional Practices



15-Minute In-Service Suites

- Using the Scientific Method
- STEAM
- Math: Number Recognition and Subitizing
- Fostering Children's Thinking Skills
- Making Learning Meaningful
- Materials Adaptation
- Adult Support and more!

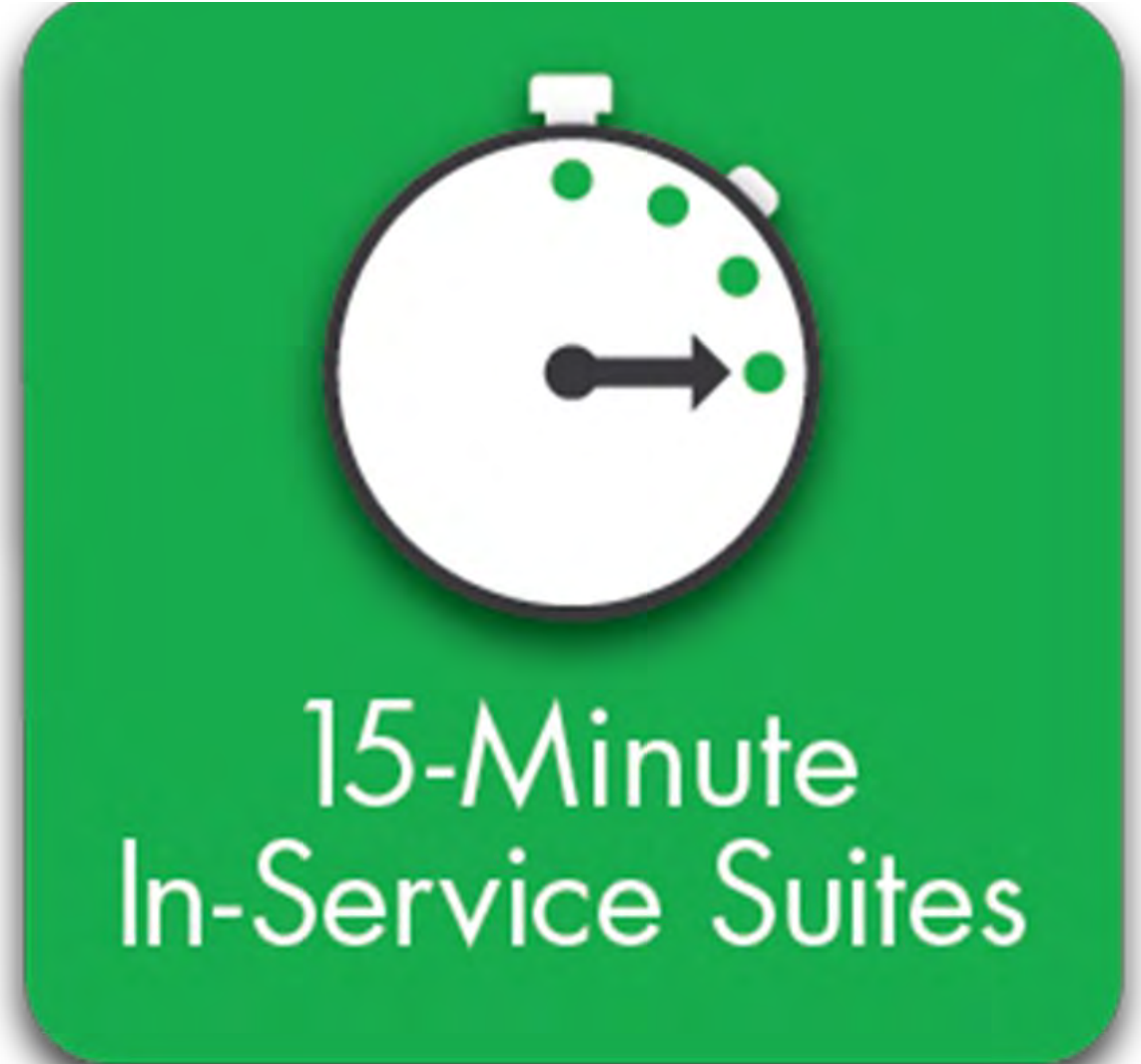


NEW!

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/teaching-practices/article/engaging-interactions-environments>

Rate your familiarity with the 15-minute In-Service Suites:

- I am not familiar with these resources
- I know about the suites but have not used them in my work
- I have used the in-service suites in my work with staff





Other Resources on Instructional Supports and Interactions



Identifying Effective Instructional Practices



- Preschool Math Ideas: Hiding in Plain Sight
- Learning by Building: Engineering for Preschool Children
- Beyond Sink and Float: Science for Preschool Children
- More than Fun and Games: Digital Technologies and Children's Learning
- Take it Outside! Adventures in Nature with STEAM

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/teacher-time-series/preschool-series>

Instructional Supports for Children Who Are DLLs

Topics

- Understanding First and Second Language Development to Inform High Quality Instructional Interactions
- Intentional Language Support in the Preschool Classroom
- Elevating the Role of Cultural Responsiveness in Effective Teaching Practices

When:

- 1st Thursday: February, April, and September at 3pm ET

Register Here:

- <https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/2065009/6DFAE6BD91AFA6254E6092C351B2109E/620313>



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Math Learning Trajectories

Children are learning math every day in Head Start programs across the country. These [Learning Trajectories \[LT\]²](#)  videos show teachers working with children to help them learn math skills. These skills include number recognition, spatial awareness, and sorting. Each video illustrates a goal in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. Watch them to see how these teachers encourage math development with the children in their programs.

Explore Resources



Introduction to [LT]²



Early Number Development



Spatial Awareness





Welcome,

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[Home](#) » [Resource Library](#)

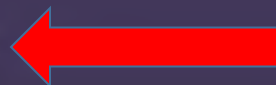
Welcome to the Resource Library. Here you will have access to videos and reference documents that support effective teaching practices.

Search

Search Resource Library (three character minimum)

View Resources By Category

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- ▶ [Resources by ELOF Domain](#)
- ▶ [Resources by CLASS Domain](#)
- ▶ [Video Glossary](#)





What are your
questions?



Teaching Practices

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Promoting Adult-Child Interactions that Support Higher-Order Thinking and Language Skills

Children are born ready to explore and learn about the world around them. Programs offer professional development and coaching to help education staff use effective teaching practices. This includes using interactions that facilitate concept development to support:

- Children's innate curiosity and creativity
- Children's higher-order thinking (e.g., reasoning, analysis, problem-solving) and language skills
- Opportunities for children think more deeply about the world around them

For preschool children, these practices support the Concept Development dimension (Instructional Support domain) as defined in the *Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®) Pre-K Manual*. Concept Development "measures the teachers' use of instructional discussions and activities to promote students' higher-order thinking skills and cognition and the teacher's focus on understanding rather than on rote instruction."

Use the following resources to learn about and support education staff in implementing effective practices.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/teaching-practices/article/promoting-adult-child-interactions-support-higher-order-thinking>

Thank you!

Please complete the
evaluation:

