



PLANNING TO BUILD ON INDIVIDUAL 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 your group of children. Use this handout to gather and record information about situational and personal interests. You can also use this activity in your individual planning or share this activity with your planning team, coach, or supervisor.

NOTICE AND LEARN ABOUT CHILDREN'S INTERESTS

SITUATIONAL INTERESTS

What situational interests have emerged during your work with this group of children? For example, are the children interested in the construction next to your setting, or are the children talking about something they share as an interest outside of the learning setting?

Handwriting lines for recording situational interests.

PERSONAL INTERESTS:

- Observe each day during choice time: What materials do most children use regularly? What interest areas or learning centers do they visit?
- Observe daily during outdoor play: What do the children do most during outdoor play?
- Have informal conversations with older children throughout the day (e.g., during meal time, outdoor play). Look for themes in what children talk about. What ideas or topics do they talk about most? What do they like to do when they not in the early learning setting?
- Ask families to share what children are interested in at home and in in the community.

Handwriting lines for recording personal interests.

ANALYSIS:

Review what you have recorded above. What did you notice about the children's personal and situational interests? How are they related? Throughout the rest of the activity, you will plan to use your curriculum's resources responsively based on children'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 change or modify what your curriculum offers to build on children's situational and personal interests? Consider the learning environment, learning experiences, and interactions. Write some specific ideas on your handout.

IMPLEMENT THE CURRICULUM RESPONSIVELY BASED ON CHILDREN'S INTERESTS

Based on what you learned about children's interests and what your curriculum offers, plan to implement something from your curriculum to build on children's interests. Then implement your plan.
