

Leader's Digest

This viewer's guide will help capture your ideas as you engage in the webinar content. During this webinar we will focus on the role of the education manager in providing education staff with the resources and guidance necessary to foster skills in the *Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework* Approaches to Learning domain. The reflection questions and activities will help you think about ways to support children's learning. Helpful resources can be found in the Resources section of this guide.

Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF)

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/interactive-head-start-early-learning-outcomes-framework-ages-birth-five>

Throughout the webinar series, we'll be referring to the Approaches to Learning domain on the ELOF. Follow the link above to find the Interactive ELOF.

The approaches to learning domain:

- Focuses on how children learn.
- Refers to the skills and behaviors children use to engage in learning.
- Incorporates emotional, behavioral, and cognitive self-regulation as well as initiative, curiosity, and creativity.
- Cognitive self-regulation skills are also referred to as executive functioning.

Emotional and Behavioral Self-
Regulation

Cognitive Self-Regulation
(Executive Functioning)

Initiative and Curiosity

Creativity

Focus for Today's Webinar: Initiative and Curiosity

Creativity in early childhood is about much more than crayons and fingerpaint! Creativity includes the ways in which children try out new ideas, experiment with their problem-solving skills, and exercise their imagination as they make sense of the world around them. Education managers can use the 5Rs of Early Learning Leaders to promote creativity in young children and the education staff who nurture their growth and development.

ELOF Goals for Children

Infants and Toddlers	Preschoolers
Goal IT-ATL 8. Child uses creativity to increase understanding and learning. Goal IT-ATL 9. Child shows imagination in play and interactions with others.	Goal P-ATL 12. Child expresses creativity in thinking and communication. Goal P-ATL 13. Child uses imagination in play and interactions with others.



Why is creativity important for young children?

- In our rapidly changing world, flexibility, new or different ideas, and solutions are needed.
- Creativity is key to problem-solving.
- Creativity reflects each child's unique way of being, doing, and thinking.
- Creativity helps children express their emotions.

The words we use matter

Words that limit creativity

Words that limit creativity focus on product over process.

Comments like the ones listed below, tell children that there is a right and a wrong way to express themselves creatively.

- What is it?
- Tell me about the octopus you drew.
- Why did you use paints? Teacher Mark put out markers and crayons for today.
- I like your picture, but you got paint all over your shirt. Let's go clean up.

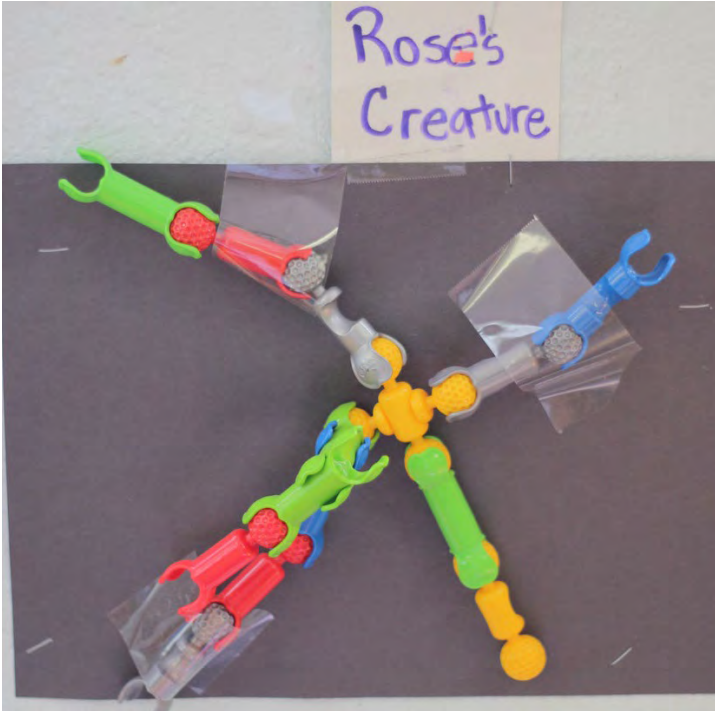
Words that support creativity

Words that support creativity encourage children to share their processes and to talk about what inspired their efforts, and the decisions they made along the way.

These types of questions and comments go beyond artistic expression and can be used in other experiences that encourage children to be curious, initiate exploration, and create new ways to test their ideas and learn.

- Tell me about your creation!
- If we put this piece of art in a museum, what name would you give it?
- I see you used crayons and paint. What inspired you to do that?
- Tell me your favorite part of what you created while we get you a clean shirt.

Activity: What feedback would you give Rose to promote her creativity?



Creativity is a natural extension of our enthusiasm. – Early Nightingale

How do you express creativity in your work? What does creativity look like in your work?



Relationships

- Build trusting relationships as a base for learning
- Sharing excitement about learning
- Create a safe space for trying new things
- Providing guidance for implementation of best practices; reinforcing best practice
- Individualizing training and professional development

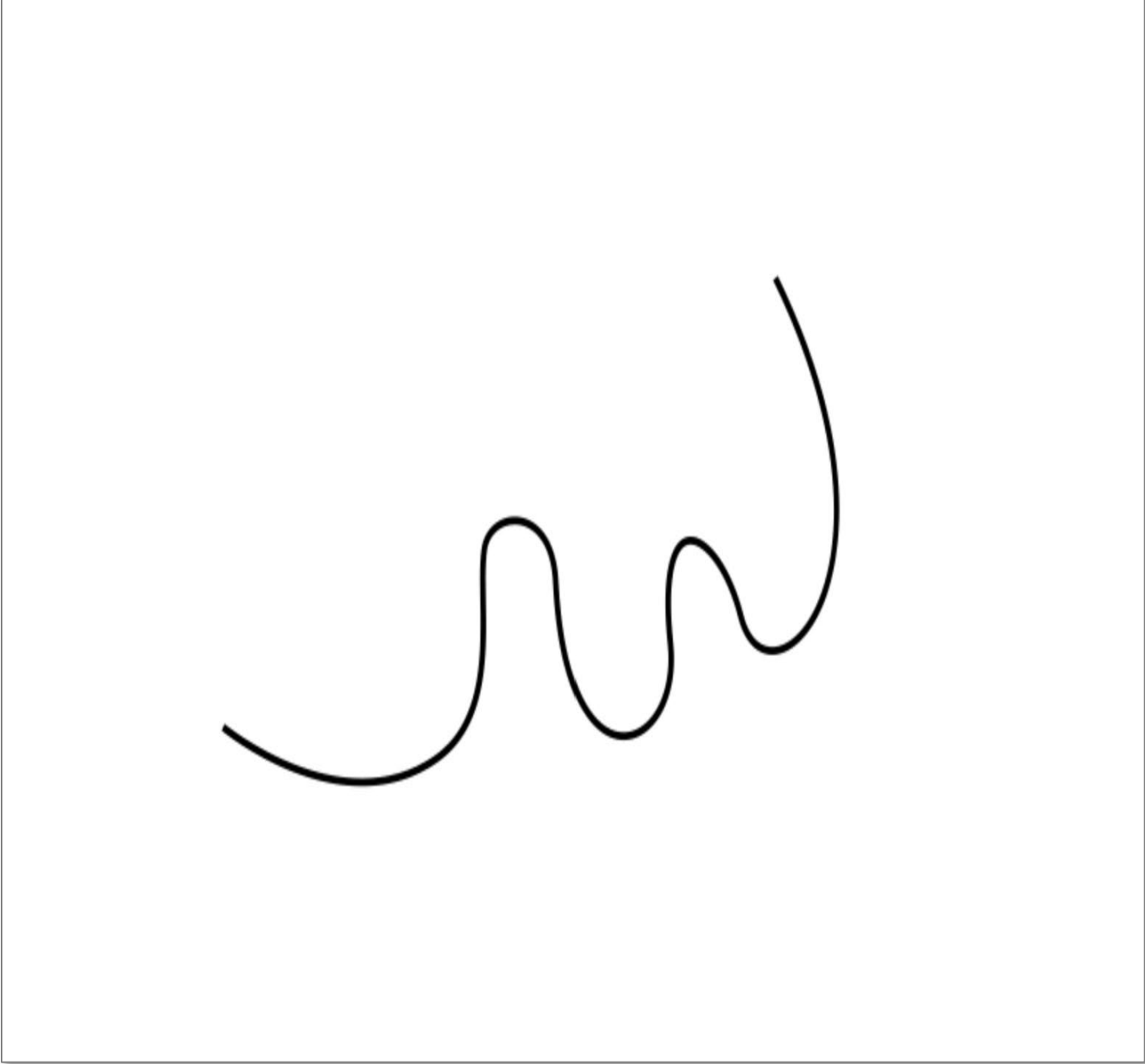
Sharing excitement about learning

CREATIVITY

When have I seen my team excited about learning? How can that be repeated?

Creativity is just intelligence having fun. – Albert Einstein

Finish this drawing.



To see examples of this Complete the Drawing Challenge visit:

<https://www.boredpanda.com/challenge-complete-the-drawing/>

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!

CREATIVITY

What helps my team take risks to try something new or different? How can I encourage a “let’s try this” attitude with my team?

Creativity is just connecting things. – Steve Jobs



Ideas to Share: “How do I help my team to be creative?”

What ideas did I hear today that I want to use or share to promote creativity in my education staff?

What ideas did I hear today that I want to use or share with others to promote creativity in my practice as a learning leader?

You can't run out of creativity. The more you use it the more you have. – Maya Angelou

Helpful Resources

Online Resources

- Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and Related Resources
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/head-start-early-learning-outcomes-framework>
- iPD Effective Practice Guide courses: CEUs available. [Preschool and Infant/Toddler courses available]
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/professional-development/individualized-professional-development-ipd-portfolio/individualized-professional-development-ipd-portfolio>
- Effective Practice – ELOF Crosswalk
 - ELOF Effective Practice Guide/CLASS® Pre-K Crosswalk
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/no-search/efg-class-pre-k-crosswalk.pdf>
 - ELOF Effective Practice Guide/Q-CCIIT Crosswalk
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/no-search/crosswalk-efg-q-cciit.pdf>
- You're the Best Teacher! Responsive Interactions with Young Children
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/youre-best-teacher-responsive-interactions-young-children>

Webinars

- Education Manager 5Rs Webinar Series
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/teaching-practices/article/education-manager-series>
- Front Porch Broadcast Series: Asking Good Questions to Support Children's Thinking and Learning
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/front-porch-broadcast-series>
- Teacher Time STEAM Series
 - Infants and Toddlers
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/teacher-time-series/infanttoddler-steam-series>
 - Preschoolers:
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/teacher-time-series/preschool-steam-series>

Mobile Apps

The ELOF is as portable as your mobile phone with the ELOF2Go and ELOF@HOME mobile applications.

ELOF2Go: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/elof2go-mobile-app>

- *Also available in Spanish!* <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/preparacion-escolar/articulo/aplicacion-movil-mielof-en-espanol>

ELOF@HOME for home visitors: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/teaching-practices/article/mobile-tools-home-visitors>

Online Communities

- **MyPeers** Education Leaders Community:
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us/article/mypeers-collaborative-platform-early-care-education-community>
- **DTL PushPlay** On-demand webinars for ALL DTL series and the 2021 Education Manager Institute
 - <https://gateway.on24.com/wcc/eh/2926734/dtl-push-play-on-demand>