

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

<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.



Focus for Today's Webinar: Initiative and Curiosity

Whether climbing onto a couch to retrieve a toy, building increasingly elaborate block structures, or deciding on the roles in pretend play, young children draw upon their curiosity, persistence, and creativity to gather information and solve problems. Many factors influence how children approach learning. Some children seem to be born risk takers who are eager to try something new, while others prefer to observe for a while. As children with disabilities learn how to learn, they may require more individualized instruction and accommodations to aid with sustained attention or regulation of feelings.

HSELOF Initiative and Curiosity Goals for Young Children

Infants and Toddlers	Preschoolers
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.	Goal P-ATL 10. Child demonstrates initiative and independence. Goal P-ATL 11. Child shows interest in and curiosity about the world around them.

VIDEO: Discovering Bugs!

How did the teacher in this video promote initiative and curiosity?

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.





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

INITIATIVE & CURIOSITY

Notes:

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!

INITIATIVE & CURIOSITY

Notes:

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



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.

INITIATIVE & CURIOSITY

Notes:

What ideas did I hear today that I want to use or share with others to promote initiative and curiosity in *young children*?

What ideas did I hear today that I want to use or share with others to promote initiative and curiosity in *education staff*?

What ideas did I hear today that I want to use or share with others to promote initiative and curiosity in *my own practice as a learning leader*?

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 Crosswalks

ELOF Effective Practice Guide/CLASS® Pre-K Crosswalk

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/no-search/elof-epg-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-epg-q-cciit.pdf>

Designing Messy Play for Infants and Toddlers

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/designing-messy-play-infants-toddlers>

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/elo2go-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>