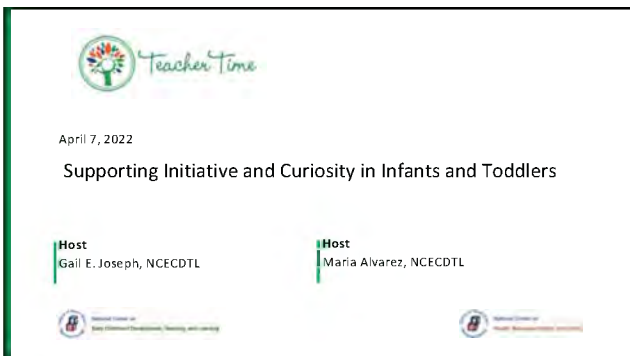
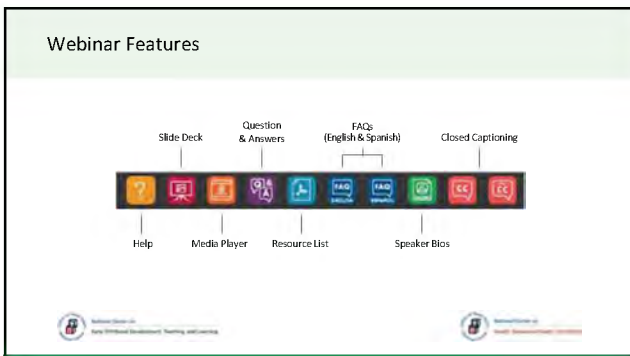




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Viewer's Guide

Supporting Initiative and Curiosity in Infants and Toddlers

4

Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework

	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
PRESCHOOL DOMAINS	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and 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 (Executive Functioning)

Initiative and Curiosity

Creativity

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Initiative and Curiosity ELOF 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 and Curiosity: Focus for Today

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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JEPARDY: The answer is...




- It supports infants in learning about cause and effect.
- It's as important as intelligence in achievement.
- It's as important as persistence in achievement.
- It leads to better relationships.
- People with more of it have greater life satisfaction.
- It helps us live longer.
- It predicts leadership ability.
- The question is: What is.....?

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We're curious...

What sparks your curiosity?

Enter your responses into the Q & A



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Why is initiative and curiosity important?

- Curiosity helps children be more observant and to think about things and try to figure them out.
- Curiosity helps infants and toddlers discover they can make things happen and have an impact in the world.
- Exploring different sounds and noises supports language development.



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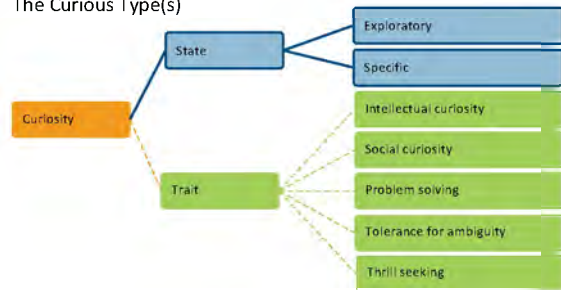
Why is initiative and curiosity important?

- 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.
- Infants learn at a rate faster than we can teach them



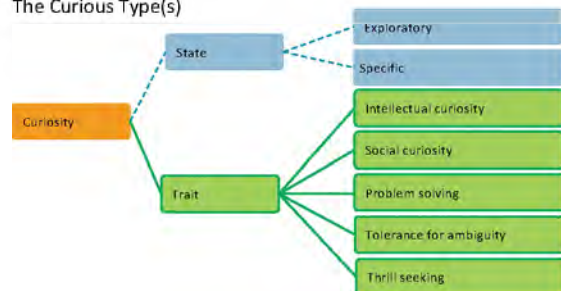
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The Curious Type(s)




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The Curious Type(s)



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Video: Curiosity in Action – Containers



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Video: Curiosity in Action – Ramps



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BASICS: Initiative and Curiosity

- B** Behavioral expectations in advance
- A** Attend to and encourage appropriate behavior
- S** Scaffold with cues and prompts
- I** Increase engagement
- C** Create or add challenge
- S** Specific feedback

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Behavioral Expectations in Advance



"We're going to paint this morning. I have everything ready, see? Now we need to put on your smock, and your arm goes right in this hole."

"It looks like you need a diaper change. You are so focused on your book! I'll get the changing table ready and then come back to get you."

"Let's wash your hands before lunch. I'm going to turn the water on, and then you put your hands under the water."

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Behavioral Expectations in Advance



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Attend to and Encourage Appropriate Behavior



Use encouraging words.

"It looks like you are really trying to figure out how to get your toes to your mouth. I wonder what they will taste like?!"


Praise the process not the product.

"You are really thinking!"


Smile!



21




Video: Attend to and Encourage Behavior – Climbing in the Chair



22

Scaffold with Cues and Prompts




Model wondering aloud.
Say out loud, *"I wonder why there are so many clouds today?"*


Use questions to encourage thinking and wait for a verbal or nonverbal response.
"I am curious about what is happening. Why does the water stay in this bucket but not in this one?"

Point out changes in patterns and similarities and differences.
"Today is a little bit different, we are going outside before snack instead of after."

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Video: Scaffold with Cues and Prompts – Noticing Differences



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Increase Active Engagement



- Provide diverse experiences.
- Follow children's lead and curiosities.

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Video: Increase Active Engagement – Avocados




26

Increase Active Engagement




- Engage in Messy Play
- Uninterrupted exploration time

27




Video: Increase Active Engagement – Sand!




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Increase Active Engagement




- Get outside!

29





Video: Increase Active Engagement – Spider Web!




30

Create or Add Challenge



Ask open ended questions: who, why, how?

31



Video: Create or Add Challenge with Questions



32

Create or Add Challenge



Bring nature into the indoor environment

33



Create or Add Challenge with an Educator Challenge




- Challenge your curiosity about what infants and toddlers are learning
- Take pictures, videos and notes of the children learning

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Create or Add Challenge with an Educator Challenge

- Ask yourself how, what, why questions about your observations
- Use the information to create new experiences for the infants and toddlers


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Specific Feedback




- **Name and acknowledge children’s explorations.**
“I saw you pouring the water over and over. You are so curious.”
- **Provide wait time for children to respond.**
- **When children have a question, ask for *their* thoughts before answering.**
*“That is such a good question – I wonder where the water is going too...what do **you** think is happening?”*

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Video: Providing Specific Feedback



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BASICS: Initiative and Curiosity

- B** Behavioral expectations in advance
- A** Attend to and encourage appropriate behavior
- S** Scaffold with cues and prompts
- I** Increase engagement
- C** Create or add challenge
- S** Specific feedback

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Small Change Big Impact



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Small Change Big Impact

Integrate Child Preferences




What does the child like?

40

Small Change Big Impact


Child Preference Strategies

Integrate a Child's...




Favorite object Favorite activity Favorite person

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Focus on Equity



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Focus on Equity

Representation Matters



- Research shows that as early as 6 months, babies notice race-based differences.
- Between the ages of 2-4 children start to internalize racial biases.
- What messages is the learning environment sending the children?

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Focus on Equity

Windows and Mirrors



Provide materials in the learning environment that honor children's home cultures.

- **Mirrors** so children can see themselves in the environment.


Provide materials that honor cultures that are not represented by the children in the learning environment.

- **Windows** so children can get a glimpse of other cultures.

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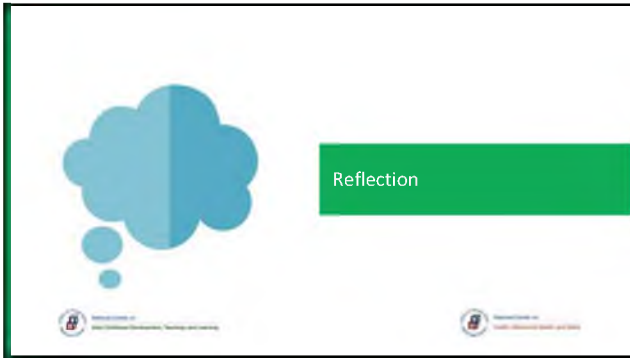
Focus on Equity

Talking About Differences

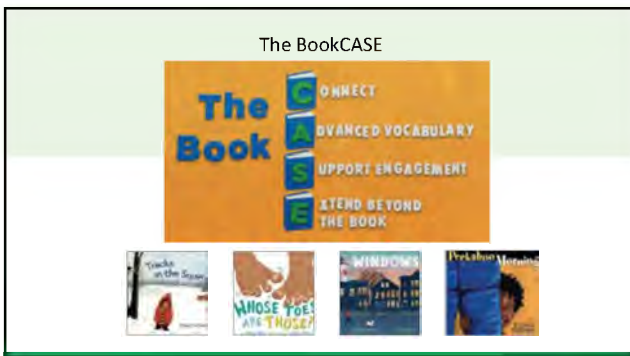


- The most important part about providing windows and mirrors in the classroom is talking about them!
- Help infants and toddlers learn the words to describe how people are the same and different.
- Talking about differences does not create bias, children learn prejudice from prejudice.

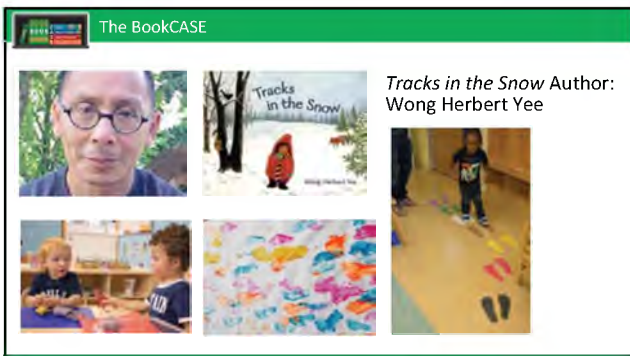
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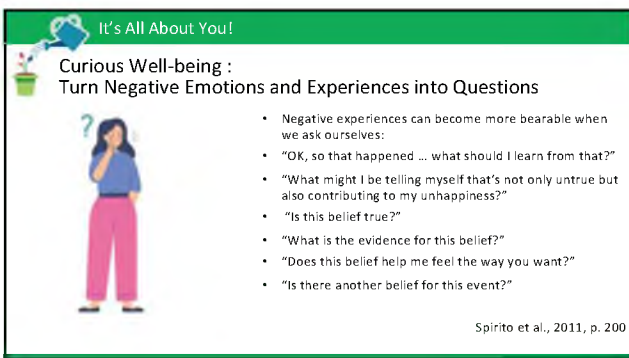
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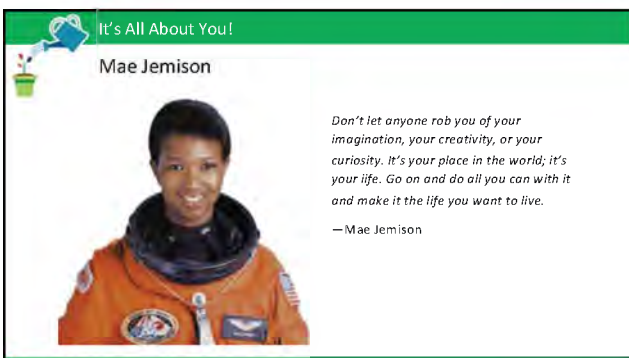
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PUSHPLAY
DTL On Demand



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




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Live Q&A

If you have questions for us, put them in the Q&A and we'll do our best to answer your question!



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Thank You!

Join Us For Our Next Episode!

May 5: Creativity for Preschoolers

June 2: Creativity for Infant and Toddlers



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



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Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>



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http://bit.ly/IPD_ECLKC



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