Vermont Early Learning: Approaches to Learning

Infants

Play and Exploration	**Children engage in play to understand the world around them.** 1 Play independently (solitary play) 2 Respond to play activities (e.g. peek-a-boo) 3 Use senses to explore objects and toys (e.g., chews on toy) 4 Relate objects to each other (e.g. banging 2 blocks 5 Engage in simple turn-taking games
Initiative	**Children show curiosity about the world around them and take action to interact with it and learn.** 1 Use senses to explore the immediate environment 2 Show interest in themselves (e.g., play with own feet) 3 Seek, initiate and respond to interactions with people and objects
Problem Solving	**Children display an interest in novel situations and demonstrate flexibility, creativity and innovation in solving challenging tasks.** 1 Use hands, mouth, and eyes in a coordinated manner to explore body, objects and surroundings 2 React to new voices or sounds by turning in the direction of the sound or changing facial expression 3 Demonstrate creativity by exploring objects in multiple ways (e.g. pushes a chair to maintain balance) 4 Watch and imitate the actions of others. 5 Use actions to solve simple problems (e.g., rolling to side to reach object)