Vermont Early Learning: Approaches to Learning

Older Toddlers

Play and Exploration	**Children engage in play to understand the world around them.** 1 Engage in constructive play (e.g., use blocks to build a tower) 2 Engage in representational play (e.g., use a gourd as a hammer or a block as a phone) 3 Experiment with the outdoor environment (e.g., climb on rocks, roll down hills) 4 Build friendships through play
Initiative	**Children show curiosity about the world around them and take action to interact with it and learn.** 1 Watch others and imitate or participate 2 Apply knowledge in new situations. 3 Ask questions to get new information 4 Initiate play with one peer
Problem Solving	**Children display an interest in novel situations and demonstrate flexibility, creativity and innovation in solving challenging tasks.** 1 Ask questions to gain information 2 Experiment with the environment, toys, and peers with purpose. 3 Demonstrate a willingness to try new activities and experiences 4 Experiment with the effect of own actions on things and people 5 Use simple problem-solving skills to figure out solutions to everyday problems