Vermont Early Learning: Approaches to Learning

Younger Toddlers

Play and Exploration	**Children engage in play to understand the world around them.** 1 Engage in solitary and parallel play (e.g., children building blocks next to each other, but not interacting with each other). 2 Engage in intended use of toy (e.g., running car along the floor) 3 Engage in simple pretend play with actual objects (e.g., puts phone to ear, or doll to bed) 4 Play outside engaging with the natural environment (e.g., feeling leaves, digging in sand)
Initiative	**Children show curiosity about the world around them and take action to interact with it and learn.** 1 Experiment with object to see how it reacts to different actions (e.g. bang , shake and roll pinecone) 2 Experiment with multiple objects to gain information (e.g. rolls car, ball and stuffed animal down a ramp) 3 Engage in simple cause and effect (e.g., jack-in-the-box, placing hand under faucet and getting sprayed with water) 4 Indicate preferences or dislikes for activities, people and experiences 5 Use memory as a foundation for more complex play, actions and ideas
Problem Solving	**Children display an interest in novel situations and demonstrate flexibility, creativity and innovation in solving challenging tasks.** 1 Make discoveries about self, others, and the environment through a variety of multi-sensory/motor interactions 2 Experiment and practice to expand skill level 3 Use creative role playing to solve problems and to communicate needs 4 Try solutions to everyday problems until discovers one that works