

Engagement – Educator Strategies to support Child Engagement

Summary

What does Supporting Child Engagement mean, anyway?

- Educators extend the length of time children stay in and participate in an activity or interaction using a variety of strategies.

What's the Point?

- Helps children to stay engaged with an activity by building their attention span
- Helps children extend play interactions and conversations with their peer(s)
- Builds relationships and enriches children's play and interactions
- Helps develop children's social skills (turn taking, waiting, problem-solving)
- Helps children build confidence to be independent engaging in play with peers and adults
- Equitable approach through universal design to honour and meet the needs of individual children as diverse learners

How Do I Do This?

- Observe children's play and interactions to note their strengths and interests
- Collaborate with all team members to plan activities that represent children's interests and consider the environment and materials
- Be responsive/accommodating in the environment by creating many ways to learn, express and participate
- Support children in selecting activities to become actively engaged
- Allow ample time for children to engage, explore and develop play
- Provide children with multiple opportunities to be actively engaged throughout large group activities
- Provide individual assistance to help children maintain engagement with peers

How Will the Children Participate in This Practice?

- Children will demonstrate their interest in materials and activities
- Children take the lead in play interactions
- Children will seek out opportunities to explore using all of their senses
- Children will use opportunities in their play to solve problems
- Children will engage with others; listening and sharing ideas, thoughts and feelings.

Checklist

Task	Complete?
Educators observe children, individually and as a group, to determine their strengths and interests.	
Educators collaborate to reflect on their observations to plan activities, materials and organize the environment	
Educators are responsive/accommodating in the environment by creating many ways to: • Learn (visual, tactile, auditory learners) • express (sign, sing, choice of play materials & how to use them) • participate (solitary play, with/without peers, quiet/active spaces)	
Educators support children in selecting activities to become actively engaged	
Educators provide children with multiple opportunities to be actively engaged throughout large group activities	
Educators allow ample time for children to engage, explore and develop play	
Educator provides individualized assistance to help children maintain interactions with their peers	
Educators invite families to share information about how they maintain their child(ren)'s attention and engagement at home	
Educators share favorite activities and materials that the children are engaging with the families through newsletters, apps, and other forms of documentation	

As an educator, you guide, scaffold, nurture, model, and facilitate children's learning and through this work you learn about what children know and how children make meaning of the world.

Makovichuk, Hewes, Lirette & Thomas, 2014, p. 53

Flight: Alberta's early learning and care framework.

Retrieved from www.flightframework.ca

