

Intentional Lesson Planning for Infants and Toddlers

The Path to Intentional Teaching

Week 3 Learning Unit

Scaffolding Development and Team Planning



Lesson Planning

In this class, we've discussed

- How we plan.
- Including parents in the planning process.
- Observing and looking for children's developmental levels.

The final component of HighScope is planning as a team.

Let's Review

Scaffolding is a Key Component of Planning

Step 1: Identify the content focus of your group-time activity.

Step 2: Consider children's developmental levels.

Step 3: Provide support at children's current level of development.

Step 4: Offer gentle extensions.

Remember...

- Observe what children are doing and saying.
- Engage on their level and support their current development.
- Offer gentle extensions to further engage children and build on their learning experiences.



Ideas for Scaffolding

- Draw attention to another child's actions by making a comment.
- Encourage the child to demonstrate or describe their thinking.
- Gently introduce a new concept or idea, or pose a challenge.

Anticipating how children will engage and how you will respond is an important part of planning and discussion with your team each day.



Daily Team Planning

Why daily?

- Daily planning is important so we are being as responsive as possible to children's development and interests.
- When we plan less often, we miss important opportunities to capture children's emerging interests and scaffold their development.

Why as a team?

- Each teacher has a primary care group, however, they can offer insights about the development and interests of children in other groups.
- Each person who works with all of the children should be present to share their observations, ideas, and insights.
- Each member of the teaching team also needs to understand the lesson plans so they can fully scaffold children's learning and development.

When we can do both — plan daily and plan as a team — our ability to provide the best experience for our children grows immensely!

Daily Team Planning Strategies

1. Share observations and anecdotes.
2. Make plans based on children's interests and their development.
3. Discuss challenges.
4. Plan changes to the classroom.

Let's take a **closer look...**



Daily Team Planning Strategies (continued)

1. Share observations and anecdotes.

- Find a time each day to have a conversation with your teaching team.
- Discuss your observations and anecdotes for each child.
 - You will have notes for children in your group as well as notes for children in your coteacher's group.

2. Make plans based on children's interests and their development.

- Exchanging information with your teaching team can help you create a clear understanding of children's abilities and interests.
- Use the notes you've gathered and trends in what you and your teaching team have observed to create a daily plan that matches what your children enjoy and are capable of participating in.
- Remember to discuss and include scaffolding — what can you anticipate about children's actions? How will you support and gently extend their learning?

Daily Team Planning Strategies (continued)

3. Discuss challenges.

- Different challenges might arise as children grow and develop in regards to routines and the environment.
- During your team planning time, share your observations and create an action plan for supporting children in your classroom.
- Use these challenges as a guide for planning experiences that are responsive to children's needs.

4. Plan changes to the classroom

- Discuss as a team what changes you might need to make to the routine or the classroom environment.
 - Change order of daily routine components
 - Add new materials to the classroom
 - Remove materials from the classroom
 - Rearrange classroom spaces
- Clarify who is responsible for what and how you will prepare children for the change.

But... what about **time**?

Finding Time For Teacher Planning

Finding time for team planning is a challenge in most classrooms. For more details, see the reading assignment article “Finding Time for Teacher Planning.” Here are some quick tips:

- **Set aside time daily** — Protect this time slot every day!
- **Choose a time that works best for your program** — What part of your schedule or routine makes the most sense for your team and classroom needs?
- **Get help** — Who can help cover the time you’ll be planning?
- **Take notes throughout the day** — Don’t wait until planning time to start coming up with ideas!
- **Keep planning materials handy** — Where can you keep notetaking materials on or near your body throughout the day?
- **Get creative** — There’s more than one way to make a plan! What unique ways does your team have for making this happen when time to meet is limited?

A Peek Ahead

This week you will

- Share your ideas about using HighScope lesson plan strategies with your teaching team.
- Complete your own lesson plan form.

