

Week 1 Reading Assignment

Active Learning and the Key Developmental Indicators: A Summary



Active Learning and the Key Developmental Indicators: A Summary

Five Ingredients of Active Learning

Materials: There are a variety of materials infants and toddlers can use in many ways.

- ___ Children explore and play with materials rich in sensory appeal:
 - ___ Everyday household objects
 - ___ Natural and found materials
 - ___ Soft, cuddly materials
 - ___ Easy-to-handle materials
 - ___ Squishy, messy materials
 - ___ Materials children can set in motion
 - ___ Materials children can pull themselves up on
 - ___ Materials children can make noise with
- ___ Children have access to people.
- ___ Children have a safe place to explore and play with materials.
- ___ Children have time to explore and play with materials.
- ___ Children have access to materials throughout the day.
- ___ Children have access to materials over long periods of time.

Active Learning and the Key Developmental Indicators: A Summary (continued)

Manipulation: Infants and toddlers use their whole bodies and all of their senses to manipulate materials freely.

- Children explore materials with all of their senses (eyes, hands, feet, mouths, ears).
- Children experiment with materials to find out what they do, return to favorite materials and people, and repeat satisfying actions.
- Children use their whole bodies to reach, grasp, roll, sit, crawl, walk, climb, carry from place to place, and so forth.
- Children use materials to imitate actions.

Choice: Infants and toddlers choose what to do.

- Children make choices and decisions all day long.
- Children express preferences for people, materials, and experiences.
- Children follow their own intentions and initiatives.
- Children decide how to explore and what to do with materials.
- Child use materials to do things for themselves.

Active Learning and the Key Developmental Indicators: A Summary (continued)

Child communication, language and thought: Infants and toddlers communicate and use language about what they need, discover, know, and do.

- Children communicate their needs, feelings, discoveries, and ideas in their own individual ways and at their own pace.
- Children initiate contact with caregivers.
- Children express feelings and communicate about discoveries to receptive and responsive caregivers.
- Children string together sounds, gestures, and words in a fashion that makes sense to them.
- Children communicate through sign language.

Adult scaffolding: Infants and toddlers learn within the context of trusting relationships.

- Caregivers take interest in children's play.
- Caregivers enjoy children's actions and explorations.
- Caregivers communicate warmth and respect.
- Caregivers acknowledge children's feelings, from delight to frustration.
- Caregivers provide positive physical contact including cuddling, hugging, holding, stroking, and lap-holding.
- Caregivers give each child their full attention and respond readily to the child's signals, and approaches, communication, and talk.
- Caregivers talk with children, tell children what will happen next, encourage children's problem solving, and read to children.

Active Learning and the Key Developmental Indicators: A Summary (continued)

Key developmental indicators: The content infants and toddlers learn

- Caregivers are familiar with the key developmental indicators (KDIs) in these areas:
 - Approaches to learning — Children show initiative in solving problems, doing things for themselves, and learning about their world.
 - Social and emotional development — Children express their feelings, differentiate themselves from others, and form relationships with adults and peers.
 - Physical development and health — Children explore the movements their bodies are capable of making and use their bodies to learn about the world.
- Communication, language, and literacy — Children communicate with gestures, sounds, and words to establish human connections and explore printed materials.
- Cognitive development — Children develop early ideas about quantity and number, navigate their environment, discover the attributes of objects, and develop ideas about time from the sequence of their daily activities.
- Creative arts — Children exercise curiosity and creativity by exploring art materials, pretending, and engaging with the sounds of music.

Active Learning and the Key Developmental Indicators: A Summary (continued)

How caregivers use the key developmental indicators

- Caregivers observe children and interpret their actions in light of the KDIs.
- Caregivers use the KDIs to guide their interactions with children, to plan for activities that scaffold (support and extend) children's learning, and to guide their selection of materials for children.
- Caregivers use the KDIs to track children's growth and development and to share and interpret children's actions to parents.



Source: Post, Jacalyn, & Hohmann, M., & Epstein, A. (2011). *Tender care and early learning: Supporting infants and toddlers in child care settings* (2nd ed). (Chapter 1). Ypsilanti, MI: HighScope Press.