



About Inspired Learning

Children need to feel safe before they can explore their surroundings. While curiosity and exploration help awaken children's talents, teachers help reinforce their learning through guidance and repetition. All children benefit from intentional interactions that inspire them through new experiences—and some children need additional or individualized support.



CLASS Focus

Facilitation of Learning and Development

How well you guide activities to support children's learning and developmental opportunities. How effectively you connect and integrate learning into all classroom activities and tasks.

Quality of Feedback

This CLASS dimension assesses how effectively you provide feedback in response to what children say and do. Effective feedback promotes learning and understanding. It also encourages and expands children's participation.

Language Modeling

The quality and frequency of your language-stimulation and language-facilitation techniques to encourage children's language development.

Planning to Inspire Learning in a Socially Distanced Setting

Given the natural need to be around others, children might have a hard time with social distancing. Organize materials in spaces where two friends can explore together. Make yourself available to facilitate their exploration while ensuring safety.



Facilitating Exploration

Classrooms need social distancing measures to remain safe, and children need to feel connected to teachers in order to learn. With safe connections in place, your facilitation is a strong tool for inspiring children.

Some Suggestions

- ① Sit safely apart from a child and mirror their actions.
- ② Narrate what a child is doing and integrate other concepts they have learned.
- ③ When a child says or does something correctly, ask them how they knew it.

Your Idea(s)



Encouraging Persistence

It takes more than one try to learn something new. Repetition is frustrating, especially when safety guidelines have changed the learning environment. By encouraging children to persist, you inspire them to learn.

Some Suggestions

- ① Monitor children's activities and celebrate their efforts.
- ② Use humor to help children cope when something doesn't work. Invite them to try again.
- ③ Ask questions to get children thinking about alternative solutions to their work.

Your Idea(s)



Increasing Exposure to Verbal Language

Toddlers' language skills develop rapidly. You can support them by using a variety of words and engaging them in simple conversations. The more you encourage them, the more you'll hear them talking each day.

Some Suggestions

- ① Talk as often as possible about what you see children doing.
- ② Engage in any conversations children start about home experiences.
- ③ Ask questions that will require children to give an extended response.

Your Idea(s)



School-to-Home Connections

Family members are the child's first teachers. So caregivers should maintain a close partnership with families. Building a trusting relationship with them helps you take all necessary precautions to keep children and yourself healthy. Whether by phone, email, or text, provide opportunities for each family to share information and ideas about the developmental goals for their child. You can also schedule opportunities to share developmentally appropriate practices at home. Finally, by sharing videos of your classroom interactions, families can see you responding to their needs while inspiring children's learning.

Before starting your day with children ...

Now that you've brainstormed some ways to inspire children's learning in your socially distanced setting, choose an interaction goal for the next time you're together with children.

Today, my interaction goal is:

- ☐ Show enthusiasm for any stories children tell.
- ☐ Ask questions to help children talk about emotions.
- ☐ Increase the time of exploration with the same toy.
- ☐ Join in at least one experience with each child.
- ☐ Integrate new concepts across activities.
- ☐ Encourage children to manipulate materials.

After your day together ...

How did it go? Were you able to inspire learning in the way you chose from the list above? Check off the related observation to the right! What else? Check off anything you noticed.

Today, I noticed that:

- ☐ A child enjoyed telling a long story with details.
- ☐ I have a better understanding of children's feelings.
- ☐ Children enjoyed playing with toys in new ways.
- ☐ Children stick with tasks longer when I join them.
- ☐ A child connected an activity to prior learning.
- ☐ Children get excited to learn with materials.

Next time you're together with children ...

Now that you've taken a moment to reflect on the interactions you had today, it's time to consider what you'll do next to continue inspiring learning. Based on your reflection, consider the statements below, and complete those that stand out to you.

- 1 Provide these activities/materials to meet children's interests: _____
- 2 Spend time with children as they explore this area/activity/material: _____
- 3 Guide exploration by _____
- 4 Ask *how* and *why* questions during _____
- 5 Do this again: _____
- 6 Try this instead: _____



Inspired Learning Reminders!

Just snip and tape somewhere special in your setting.



**Sit with
children
and guide
exploration.**



**Let children
manipulate
materials.**



**Wonder about
new ideas
together.**



**Celebrate
children's
efforts.**



**Encourage
children to tell
you more.**



**Ask children
why they think
what they
think.**



**Respond to
children's
inquiries.**



**Ask
open-ended
questions.**



**Talk about
children's
lives.**