

Image of the Child
EDUC85
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Independent



As children grow older they become competent and independent individuals. In this photo, the young boy is displaying his independence and ability to put on his shoes by himself without help from an adult. As

early learning professionals it's important for a child's development to give them the space to make small accomplishments, "Independence breeds self-reliance" (Dexter, K. 2017), as displayed in this image of putting on his shoe. By allowing children to be independent in their daily routines they began "Developing a strong sense of self ability" (Ministry of Education, 2014, page 33). Children prosper and learn through small accomplishments and barriers that arise in everyday activities (play) and daily routines. They overcome these barriers by independently problem-solving, decision making (to the extent of their age) and their knowledge and ideas.

Diverse



children are diverse humans who are naturally accepting of people's different abilities and cultural differences. In this photo, children are accepting of their differences in culture and

continue to play inclusively with one another. The early learning environment should be a place that “ uses the diversity of the participants as an asset that enriches the environment” (Ministry of Children and Youth Services, 2007, page 7). Children within the learning environment who are inclusive and accepting of everyone no matter their differences give others the sense belonging “ between children, adults and the world around them” (Ministry of Education, 2014, page 23). when children feel that they belong they get a sense of inclusion and safety within the learning environment. As early learning professionals, it's our responsibility to “ support the development of relationships” (Ministry of Education, 2014, page 24) and encourage children to welcome differences.

Curious



children are always curious individuals.

They are natural explorers in the learning environment who seek out new things to learn every day. Curiosity is defined as the “motivation to explore, discover, question and seek wonderment” (Dietze, B. & Kashin, D (2016, page 204) When

children come across something new in their environment they are naturally curious to learn more about where it came from? how does it work? what is it? and more. in this image, the children are naturally curious about mixing colors as the one little girl has

mixed blue and yellow to create green. In this image, they are also exploring by using their hands rather than a paintbrush. As early learning professionals, our job is to support children's curiosity and create activities and opportunities to spark children's curiosity. "Children react to the outcomes of their investigation" (Ministry of Children and Youth Services, 2007, page 12). Through curiosity, children become familiar with the world around them because of their exploration and investigation.

Social



children are social individuals who interact with others to solve problems and to learn based on different perspectives. Being socially active is the act of communicating with peers and others within the learning community. In this photo, it shows school-aged children

participating in a group activity of building a tower. Each child is contributing and communicating their ideas to actively take part in their play. "children learn through active engagement, activity, observations, and social interactions," (Ministry of Children and Youth Services, 2007, page 9). Not only are children able to see their point of view they are able to incorporate and understand the point of view from others around them. Children learn to "share within the play process" (Dietze, B & Kashin, D 2019 pg.207)

and can “ recognize the value and respect the unique identity and perspective of others”
(Ministry of Education, 2014, page 33)

Creative



Children are creative and imaginative learners in the learning community. Children “ use their creativity and imagination to construct spaces and objects that fit their interests” (Dietze, B., & Kashin, D. 2019 page 207). children incorporate loose parts that are

open-ended materials into their creative play to fabricate new ideas and inventions. This image consists of loose parts such as seeds, pipe cleaners, and magnet numbers. The little girl is using these loose parts in the playdough to be creative in her makings and designs. As early learning professionals, it's our responsibility to create “programs that encourage creative expression” (Dietze, B. & Kashin, D. 2016, page 263). Being creative is a way for children to express their identity, feeling, and self-expression. “Creative activities help acknowledge and celebrate children's uniqueness and diversity” (The Whole Child, nd.).

This exercise has offered me further insight into my view of children. I believe that children need adult guidance as they grow and develop but, I also believe that children need the freedom to become independent, competent and creative individuals. As an aspiring early learning professional in my practice, I will encourage children to be inclusive, accepting of one another and set differences aside. Children learn best through experiences and play and in my practice, I will create programs that will spark children's natural curiosity to discover, explore and inquire. Overall this assignment has inspired me to view children as equal individuals within our society.

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