

Supporting Concept Development: *Integrated Learning*

Use these ideas and questions to build on what you have learned and extend your practice.

THINK ABOUT IT!

- **Self-Reflection**
Use these questions to think about your own practice.
- **Reflect with Others**
Supervisors, directors, coaches, and teachers/providers can be reflective partners.
- **The Power of Practice**
Invite a colleague to join you; observe or record each other and share ideas.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- What are some examples of integrated learning that I have observed during children's play or routines over the past week?
- What small changes can I make in my practice to plan learning experiences that support multiple domains of learning?
- How can I stretch myself to engage with children during day-to-day interactions of play, inquiry, and routines to foster their development across domains?
- When planning an activity that focuses specifically on literacy, math, science, or art, for instance, how might I support development in other domains?
- How easy or challenging is it for me to shift my thinking from math time or reading time to facilitate integrated learning experiences throughout the day?

TRY IT OUT!

Choose one of the following experiences to practice how to facilitate integrated learning:

Play | Inquiry | Routines

- Identify an activity you can plan or an interaction you can initiate during play, inquiry, or routines.
- Plan in advance how you can support children's development and learning in multiple domains. Here are some questions to help you plan integrated learning experiences:
 - **Language and Literacy:** What new vocabulary can you introduce? What books might you read? How can you include print in this experience?
 - **Social-Emotional:** How can this experience support children's relationships with caregivers or peers? In what ways can children work together during this experience? How does the activity promote children's self-regulation skills?
 - **Physical:** How does this experience foster fine or gross motor skills?
 - **Science:** How might you invite children to share observations and make predictions? Can you encourage children to investigate or experiment? What science tools might you introduce?
 - **Math:** Does this experience have opportunities for counting, patterns, classification, or other math concepts?
- In the moment, pay attention to how children engage in the activity or interaction. Try to scaffold children's learning in multiple domains.

How Did It Go?

After facilitating an integrated learning experience, reflect on the children's development and learning. Record your thoughts. Which domains of development did this learning experience support? What worked and why? What might you try next time?

What Next?

Practice again. Try this exercise when planning other learning experiences during play, inquiry, and routines. Use the previous questions to intentionally support development and learning across domains. Check out the next bundle, *Being Responsive to Children and Families*, to learn about how to plan curriculum that is responsive to the diverse needs of children and families.