

# Exploring the “Why” Behind Experiences



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**Gee Whiz**™  
Education

# Why would you plan this experience?



# Why is the “why” important?

- Research indicates that the strongest connection between the beneficial results for children involve what teachers teach and how they teach it (Burchinal, 2017)
- Helps you set goals and objectives to guide planning
- Invites you to incorporate assessment as part of the process
- Guides you when individualizing
- Makes learning meaningful for children



Burchinal, Margaret. “Intentional Teaching Makes the Biggest Impact on Early Childhood Outcomes.” *Intentional Teaching Makes the Biggest Impact on Early Childhood Outcomes* | FPG Child Development Institute, 2017, [fpg.unc.edu/node/9366](http://fpg.unc.edu/node/9366).

# Identifying the “why”

- What are your goals?
- What areas of development do you want to address?
- Are these areas the same for each child? Why not?
- How do you think this experience will benefit each child?



# What are the 10 areas of development?



- Language Development
- Literacy Development
- Math Knowledge
- Logic & Reasoning
- Science Knowledge
- Approaches to Learning
- Creative Arts
- Physical Development & Health
- Social & Emotional Development
- Social Studies Knowledge



# What is Language Development?



- Listening
- Speaking (verbal)
- Nonverbal Communication



# What is Literacy Knowledge?

- Phonological Awareness (letter sounds)
- Appreciation for Books
- Alphabet Knowledge
- Concepts about Print
- Beginning Writing



# What is Math Knowledge?



- Number Concepts & Operations
- Geometry
- Positional Concepts
- Patterning
- Measurement  
(standard & nonstandard)





# What is Logic & Reasoning?

- Problem-Solving
- Reasoning
- Representation



# What is Science Knowledge?



- Exploring & Thinking Like a Scientist
- Making & Testing Predictions
- Observation Skills
- Knowledge about the World (Natural/Physical)



# What are Approaches to Learning?

- Curiosity & Desire to Learn New Things
- Persistence
- Patience
- Cooperation



# What are Creative Arts?



- Music
- Dance & Movement
- Fine Arts
- Creative Dramatics



# What is Physical Development & Health?

- Gross Motor Skills
- Fine Motor Skills
- Safety
- Knowledge & Practice of Healthy Habits



# What is Social & Emotional Development?



- Social Interactions & Relationships
- Self-Concept
- Emotions & Self-Regulation
- Character Education



# What is Social Studies Knowledge?



- Knowledge of Family & Community
- Cultural Differences (People & Places)
- Caring for the Environment
- History



# When planning experiences, how do the 10 developmental areas play into the “why?”





# What areas of development do you think can be addressed during this experience?

- Language Development
- Literacy Development
- Math Knowledge
- Logic & Reasoning
- Science Knowledge



- Approaches to Learning
- Creative Arts
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# Just a few areas could be...

- **Language Development:** Building both receptive & expressive language skills as well as vocabulary – What do you like about playing in the leaves?
- **Science Knowledge:** Encouraging using the senses to explore – How do the leaves feel? Smell? Sound?
- **Math Knowledge:** Comparing & contrasting...How are the leaves the same? How are they different? Counting skills – Can you make a set with (number) of leaves? How many leaves do you think were on that tree?
- **Social Studies Knowledge:** Sharing information about family – Do you have any trees in your yard that have red leaves? Orange? Yellow?
- **Approaches to Learning:** Working together – How big do you think the pile of leaves will get if we all work together to make it?



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Let's try that again.  
What developmental areas is this child addressing as he plays with blocks?



- Language Development
- Literacy Development
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- Science Knowledge



- Approaches to Learning
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**What experience could you plan with these plates?  
What would be the “why” behind the experience?  
Cover as many developmental areas as you can.**





Questions?

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