

# Rhode Island Early Learning Standards



## Strategies that Support Children in the Area of Approaches to Learning

### Curiosity

- Encourage children's natural inclination to ask questions and to wonder. Help them refine their questions and think of ways they might get answers.<sup>1</sup>
- Provide meaningful, realistic choices of play and work experiences.<sup>2</sup>
- Help children who have difficulty making choices by limiting choices or helping them think through their options.<sup>3</sup>

### Persistence

- Play games in which children must listen carefully and follow more than one direction, such as "Simon says, stand on one foot and touch your nose."<sup>4</sup>
- Assign children important, necessary tasks that involve following multiple-step directions: "Take your coat off, hang it in the cubby, and pick out a book to enjoy."<sup>5</sup>
- When children quit or give up too easily, gently encourage them by saying, "Try one more time" or "Think of something else you could try."<sup>6</sup>
- Gradually lengthen the time children are expected to remain engaged in activities or experiences; for instance, read longer stories to extend children's attention span.<sup>7</sup>

### Self-organization

- Equipment and materials are arranged consistently so children know where to find the things they need.<sup>8</sup>
- Shelves are neat and uncluttered, and materials are labeled so children can make choices easily.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Head Start Bureau. *The Head Start Leader's Guide to Positive Child Outcomes: Strategies to Support Positive Child Outcomes*. (Washington, D.C. September 2003) 98.

<sup>2</sup> *The Head Start Leader's Guide*, 98.

<sup>3</sup> *The Head Start Leader's Guide*, 98.

<sup>4</sup> *The Head Start Leader's Guide*, 98.

<sup>5</sup> *The Head Start Leader's Guide*, 99.

<sup>6</sup> *The Head Start Leader's Guide*, 99.

<sup>7</sup> *The Head Start Leader's Guide*, 99.

<sup>8</sup> Diane Trister Dodge, Laura Colker & Cate Heroman. *Creative Curriculum for Preschooler*. Washington, DC: Teaching Strategies, 2002. 77.

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- A well-defined, illustrated schedule is prominently displayed so children learn the order of events that occur each day and know what to expect.<sup>10</sup>
- Routines such as transitions, eating, napping, and toileting are consistent.<sup>11</sup>

### Reasoning

- Engage children in generating multiple solutions to questions or problems: “It is raining and we can’t go outside. What could we do instead?”<sup>12</sup>
- When exploring or experimenting with a science or math topic, engage children in the scientific method of asking questions, generating hypotheses, gathering data, predicting what will happen, and observing consequences.<sup>13</sup>
- Play games that involve classifying, comparing, and contrasting, such as Dominoes, Lotto, and other matching and sorting games.<sup>14</sup>

### Application

- Engage children in prior planning of their own and remind them of their plans as needed: “What was it you planned to do today? Are you finished?”<sup>15</sup>
- Provide ways for children to revisit and reflect on their experiences and learning.<sup>16</sup>
- Make frequent comments about children’s efforts: “Look how hard you’ve been trying to put that puzzle together. You’re almost finished.” “You didn’t give up until you got just the right color. You must be very proud.”<sup>17</sup>
- Help children identify successful strategies for problem-solving: “It really helps when you look for the very first letter of your name to find your cubby.” “Let’s repeat the directions together, so everyone will know what to do next.”<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> *Creative Curriculum*, 77.

<sup>10</sup> *Creative Curriculum*, 77.

<sup>11</sup> *Creative Curriculum*, 77.

<sup>12</sup> *The Head Start Leader’s Guide*, 100.

<sup>13</sup> *The Head Start Leader’s Guide*, 100.

<sup>14</sup> *The Head Start Leader’s Guide*, 100.

<sup>15</sup> *The Head Start Leader’s Guide*, 99.

<sup>16</sup> *The Head Start Leader’s Guide*, 99.

<sup>17</sup> *The Head Start Leader’s Guide*, 99.

<sup>18</sup> *The Head Start Leader’s Guide*, 99.