

SUGGESTED EXERCISES

Observing free play in the nursery



Video: Baby playing freely

OBJECTIVES

- Promoting a healthy lifestyle for children.
- Creating a safe environment in an educational childcare centre.
- Promoting children's holistic development.
- Building a positive relationship with children.
- Building a relationship of trust with children's families.
- Organizing the educational environment.
- Integrating the language and culture of belonging into educational practices.

ACTIVITY DETAILS

Approximate duration: 4 hrs



STEP 1

1.1 Watch the video clip as a group or individually.

STEP 2

2.1 Divide the group into three teams and have each group prepare a short oral presentation.

The instructions are as follows:

- a. Each team receives a topic and talking points related to the video clip.
- b. Each team has 30 minutes to prepare by searching the internet or consulting reference materials.
- c. Each team has 10 minutes to present to the rest of the group and interact with colleagues.
- d. During their presentation, each team needs to integrate the other group members to keep the conversation going and encourage discussion.
- e. The teams follow their respective assigned topics and instructions:

TEAM 1: Facilitate an educational team meeting with an agenda that includes the following topics:

- a. Identify, in a professional manner, what the children are learning during this free play.
- b. Identify and explain the key elements of infant development observed in this video clip.
- c. Identify and explain the important elements to be considered in the nursery layout to promote free play.
- d. Identify and explain ways to create a meaningful and lasting relationship with the infant.
- e. Develop a list of materials that could be added to a room for 0-to-18-month-olds to align educational practices with the language and culture of belonging.



TEAM 2: Prepare and facilitate an information session for parents in the educational childcare centre that addresses the following points:

- a. Support parents in their understanding of free play and its importance in a child's development.
 - b. Support parents in observing their child's development.
 - c. Support parents in recognizing their baby's real needs.
 - d. Equip parents to choose educational materials for their infant to encourage holistic development.
-

TEAM 3: Prepare and facilitate a nursery development conference respecting the following points:

- a. Submit a layout plan for a nursery that promotes sensory exploration and free play among 0-to-18-month-olds.
 - b. Identify and explain the elements observed in the video clip that demonstrate that the living space is comfortable and warm.
 - c. Make a list of materials that could be incorporated into a room for 0-to-18-month-olds to align educational practices with the language and culture of belonging.
-

STEP 3

3.1 Make the presentations.

3.2 You must leave time for a question period at the end of each presentation.

STEP 4

4.1 Back in the main group, restart the discussion to continue learning by answering the following additional questions:

- What is the role of the educator during free play?
- What did you find surprising in this clip?
- For the child, what are the benefits of being able to play freely?
- What is your takeaway from this activity?
- What do you think is most important for your future practice and profession?

