
Supporting Children's Development of Core Skills

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INSTRUCTIONS

The ECE Resource Hub is organized around five Core Skills that children develop. The Core Skills are Relate, Regulate, Think, Communicate, and Move. Each Core Skill is made up of several Subskills that educators can support through their interactions with children. For each Subskill, you will find the following Foundational Resources:

- ◆ Core Skill Summary Sheets (found by selecting “Get to Know This Skill”)
- ◆ Three “What it Looks Like” exemplar clips
- ◆ Book Reading activities
- ◆ Activity Cards

This handout was designed to guide your use of the Foundational Resources on the ECE Resource Hub. The questions and activities in this handout could be used in a work session (e.g., professional learning community, professional development session), for individual coaching, or for self-reflection.

Goals

Use the Foundational Resources on the ECE Resource Hub to:

- ◆ Explore how one Core Skill or Subskill develops.
- ◆ Learn the Intentional Teaching Practices that best support the development of the skill, including viewing exemplar classroom videos.
- ◆ Plan for observing and supporting children's development of the skill.

Activity

- ◆ Prior to the session, review the Core Skill Summary Sheet and the “What it Looks Like” exemplar clips for the skill you are focusing on.
- ◆ Use the questions below to guide your reflection on how you are already supporting this skill, how children are displaying this skill, and new practices you'd like to explore.
- ◆ Review the Activity Cards and Book Reading activities.
- ◆ Make and implement a plan for supporting children's development of the skill.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ◆ What caught your attention on the Core Skill Summary Sheet or What It Looks Like video clips?
 - What made that idea, fact, example, or practice meaningful to you?
- ◆ How is the information in this sheet and videos the same or different from the way you've thought about or supported this skill in the past?

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- ◆ When an educator knows where children are in their development of a skill, they can provide effective, targeted support.
 - Go through your roster. Think about each child and make notes on how they show the skill you are focused on and what support they may need. What do you think may be “just a bit more” than what they can do independently?
 - Review the “Observe” description on the back of the Core Skill Summary Sheet. This week, observe and spend time with each child with a close eye on their behaviors related to this skill. Did your observations match your initial notes? What did you notice about who may need extra support or challenge?
 - Our observations are clouded by our own biases. Take a moment to consider how your biases may be unintentionally affecting your observations. Did you notice any patterns around how you view children of a certain race/ethnicity or gender? Do you expect more or less from certain groups of children?

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- ◆ Plan to use the practices, activities, and routines in the Foundational Resources to support children's development of the skill. For example:
 - **Practice a practice!** In the back of the Core Skill Summary Sheet, you will find three Intentional Teaching Practices, one for each day of the week. The Intentional Teaching Practices are essential techniques to support the skill. Choose one Intentional Teaching Practice to try out and reflect on how it goes. Consider ways to remind yourself to use it for this week and beyond.
 - **Make it routine.** Review the “Setting the Stage” section on the first page of the Core Skill Summary Sheet. “Setting the Stage” includes activities, materials, and routines to support the development of the skill. Choose a routine you will incorporate or a change you will make to the environment. Try it out this week—set a time to reflect on how the children are reacting and ways to adapt if necessary.
 - **Build it with books.** To learn how to support this specific Core Skill or Subskill using storybooks, check out a Book Reading activity. Plan to use this activity with children. How might you need to adapt this activity for your children? What other books do you know that would also be great for supporting this skill?
 - **Weave it across the day.** To learn how to support this specific skill throughout the day, explore the Activity Cards. Plan for how you can add these simple, fun activities throughout the day.