

Play with Infants Handout

Answer the questions below as you read and watch the following:

Let's Talk About Following Children's Lead <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/following-childrens-lead>

1. What does it mean to follow a child's lead?
2. Complete the Chart: 3 Ways to Follow a Child

Ways to Follow Children's Lead	What teacher does	Example/ How
Build on Children's Interests		
Provide Choices		
Encourage Children's Ideas		

3. When can teachers follow children's lead?

McMullen & Brody (2022)

1. What are play materials? Name the types of play materials and give examples of each type.
2. When identifying play materials, what characteristics. Developmental, and cultural attributes should infant teachers look for?
3. What is considered a choking hazard for children under three?
4. What is a challenge that teachers of infants often face?
5. How can infant teachers use developmentally appropriate practice?
6. What do infant teachers gain from observing babies? Why is observing babies as they play important?
7. Complete the Chart: Ways Infants Teachers Support Babies to Learning Through Play

Method	What is it?	What babies learn?	How infant teachers facilitate it?	Example
Individual Exploration				
Social Learning				
Modeling				
Scaffolding				
Direct Guidance & Instruction				

8. What are the 3 important roles of infant teachers which are connected by observations?

Guyton (2011)

1. What do young children learn from play?
2. How can infant teachers build on children's play?
3. What are the best toys for a child?
4. Why are homemade toys good toys for babies?
5. How should teachers incorporate the child's community and culture in toys?
6. What are toys that support cognitive development? How do the toys support cognitive development?

Optional Reading: Shabazian & Li Soga (2014)

1. What are the criteria for selecting infant play materials, specifically materials that are developmentally appropriate? What are materials that encourage participation?
2. What does the research say about learning language and TV?
3. What are open-ended materials? What are examples of open-ended materials?
4. What is divergent thinking? Why is it important?
5. What types of materials should teachers provide for babies? Why?
6. What are examples of toys that support different domains of development? What domains do the toys support?
7. Why is aesthetics and how materials are presented important in infant classrooms?
8. How many materials should infant teachers offer babies? Why?
9. How does sound impact babies' play?.