Developing Cognitive and Language Skills
Policy/Procedure

Staff and providers will provide for the development of cognitive and language skills for all children by designing a physical environment and schedule of activities that include experimentation, inquiry, observation, play, exploration, creative self expression and interaction with both peers and adults.

Policy/Procedure:
1. Provide a print-rich environment and encourage children’s emerging interest in writing (e.g. scribbling, drawing, copying, writing and inventing their own spelling).
2. Use High Scope Letter Links to label cubbies, lockers, mailboxes, etc...
3. Use message board to share information using pictures and words.
4. Staff will be intentional in planning activities and will extend children’s’ thinking and learning by:
   • adding new materials
   • asking open-ended questions
   • offering ideas or suggestions
   • joining in their play
   • Supporting children in problem solving
5. Read from a variety of literature sources daily.
6. Share stories with children about experiences and expand on their learning.
7. Dictate drawings, and experiences of the children. (e.g. “tell me about your picture”)
8. Use flannel board, puppets, songs, finger plays, books and poems.
9. Provide opportunities for children to learn new vocabulary.
10. Plan activities for labeling, classifying, sorting objects by shape, color, size.
11. Observe and discuss natural events such as seeds growing, life cycle of pets and other animals.
12. Provide a variety of hands on science and exploration activities allowing children to discover, create, and learn about problem solving and cause and effect.
13. Plan fieldtrips and events to provide new learning experiences (see Field Trip Policy/Procedure).

This policy complies with Head Start Performance Standard 45 CFR Section 1304.21

Approved by Policy Council on February 16, 1999
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