

Approaches to Learning (Indicators for 46 - 60 months)

Mindset

a. Engagement

- ☐ Participates with pleasure, enthusiasm and dedication in self chosen activities.
- ☐ Consistently remains engaged in self-directed play even with distractions, can maintain focus and return to an activity after a break.

b. Persistence

- ☐ Purposefully chooses, engages and persists in play, experiences and projects.
- ☐ Works through challenges with increasing independence while engaged in self-selected activities.
- ☐ Demonstrates resilience and coping skills when faced with reasonable challenges, using an increased ability to regulate frustration over time.
- ☐ Chooses to leave a project and return to it later for follow through or elaboration.
- ☐ Chooses to repeat experiences to build competence and explore, change and extend ideas.
- ☐ Keeps trying and flexibly adapts strategies when encountering difficulties.

c. Initiative

- ☐ Asks to join in play already in progress.
- ☐ Tells the difference between appropriate and inappropriate risk-taking.
- ☐ Offers to help adults or peers with daily tasks.
- ☐ Independently seeks, accepts or offers help or information for further understanding.
- ☐ Can identify and seek materials, strategies and tools they need to complete activities and tasks.
- ☐ Invents projects and works on them with little assistance.
- ☐ Sets goals, develops plans, and follows through with self directed projects with increasing independence and/or collaboration.

d. Curiosity

- ☐ Discovers and investigates ideas, tasks, experiences that interest and amaze them.
- ☐ Carries out investigations using familiar and new strategies, tools, or sources of information.
- ☐ Approaches tasks and activities with increasing flexibility, complexity, imagination and inventiveness.
- ☐ Chooses to take opportunities to explore a variety of materials and experiences, seeking out new challenges.

Executive Function

a. Reflection

- ☐ Thinks about multiple options, choices and decides if they are useful and if not, tries another.
- ☐ Applies prior experiences, senses, and knowledge to new learning situations.



- ☐ Discovers and finds patterns and relationships.
- ☐ Draws on information to be able to review and anticipate when making if-then connections and contemplate what if situations that have not actually occurred.
- ☐ Discusses or documents important aspects of an experience and identifies what was learned.

b. Problem-Solving

- ☐ Predicts when something might be a problem or challenge.
- ☐ Recognizes that problems exist and learns how to resolve simple conflicts independently or collaboratively.
- ☐ Maintains communication and problem-solving skills when finding a solution to conflicts.

c. Flexibility

- ☐ Independently alters approach to tasks or problem when initial approach does not work.
- ☐ Considers, predicts and implements different approaches to carrying out a task.
- ☐ Demonstrates innovative thinking.
- ☐ Is able to manage a change in rules or accepts the ideas of peers during play.

Creativity, Invention, and Imagination

a. Visual Arts

- ☐ Shows interest or participates in different art media and materials in a variety of ways for creative expression and representation.
- ☐ Shows increasing engagement in art materials to express ideas and interests.
- ☐ Works cooperatively to create drawings, painting, sculptures, and other art projects.
- ☐ Progresses in abilities to create with a variety of media that reflect more detail, uniqueness, and /or realism.
- ☐ Explores and utilizes art materials appropriately.
- ☐ Describes the process and style of personal artwork.
- ☐ Selects pieces for display.
- ☐ Listens, comments and shows appreciation for the art expression of others.
- ☐ Explores diverse art forms, elements and styles for representing ideas, creative thought and to support learning in other learning domains.
- ☐ Observes, discusses and may utilize multicultural art styles and materials.

b. Movement and Dance

- ☐ Moves in response to different styles of music.
- ☐ Uses creative movement that expresses an idea or feeling.
- ☐ Combines creative movement with sound, song/chants and /or instruments to express ideas or retell a story.
- ☐ Engages in and collaborates during group creative movement/dance.



c. Music

- ☐ Uses body percussion to demonstrate beat and tempo.
- ☐ Shows increasing ability to recognize temp changes and different styles of music.
- ☐ Increasing ability to adapt to pitch and sounds.
- ☐ Sings songs with varied lyrics and patterns.
- ☐ Improvises with sound effects.
- ☐ Uses musical instruments to imitate and improvise songs, melodies and patterns.
- ☐ Explores music and instruments from other cultures.

d. Dramatic Play and Expression

- ☐ Uses inanimate objects for other than their intended purpose to create representations of real-life objects or activities.
- ☐ Represents fantasy and real-life experiences through pretend play and may use props.
- ☐ Uses pretend play to represent known or anticipated situations.
- ☐ Creates characters through physical movement, gesture, sound, speech and facial expressions.
- ☐ With prompting and support, children assume the roles of characters, using props and language to tell or retell a story.