

Infant/Toddler-MELDS

Domain: Approaches to Learning

This document can be used for planning within this Domain. You can type directly into the “My Planning” boxes.

Domain	Goal Topic	Indicators- Birth-8 months	My Planning	Indicators- 6-18 Months	My Planning	Indicators- 16-36 Months	My Planning
Approaches to Learning	Engagement and Persistence	Makes and maintains eye contact while being held for feeding.		Looks out the window for a familiar caregiver to return.		Empties the entire toy box while looking for a favorite toy.	
		Finds ways to bring hand to mouth even when hand is covered by a blanket or clothing.		Uses several different ways to get a toy when it's out of reach.		Turns puzzle piece in a variety of directions to fit into puzzle frame.	
		Tries to reach a toy hanging from a highchair.		Reaches for caregiver's hands to continue game/song: - Peek-A-Boo - Pat-A-Cake - Twinkle, Twinkle		Climbs into a box or open cupboard to get toys or objects that are out of reach.	
		Tries to move bottle, cries, or touches adult when bottle is empty.		Continues to feed self even when having difficulty.		Attempts to put on shoes or coat by self, tries for a while before asking for help.	
		Begins to look for dropped objects.				Follows after and says “Good-bye” or cries when caregiver is leaving the room or going out of the house.	



						Overcomes an obstacle in the way of obtaining a desired object.	
Approaches to Learning	Initiative and Curiosity	Explores a variety of materials including: - their body - people - objects		Lifts arms up in order to be picked up by caregiver.		Studies people and things around them seeking more information.	
		Vocalizes or makes noise to attract caregiver's attention.		Gets a favorite book and brings to caregiver to read.		Shows interest and/or approaches other children for play.	
		Uses facial expressions, sounds or gestures to show likes or dislikes.		Shows preference for: - certain foods - toys - activities		Makes their choices known by talking about what they want and asking questions using: - gestures - facial expressions - words	
		Shows eagerness to investigate novel objects.		Willing to approach new people, things and experiences.		Starts to sing a song or move to music and others join in.	
				Shows enthusiasm for exploring and learning (clap, smile).		Shows interest in trying new experiences and new ways of doing things.	

Approaches to Learning	Creativity	Finds new ways to use familiar toys/ materials: - putting a block in a cup - using a spoon to bang on tray - “inviting” an adult to mouth rattle			Bangs on pots and pans with a spoon to make noise then tries the same action on other objects.		Acts out dramatic play role-play themes with others; engages in make-believe play: - imitates a dog or cat by crawling and making barking or meowing noises - offers a caregiver or peer a pretend snack or drink during play	
		Laughs and tries to imitate noises or silly sounds.			Uses familiar objects in pretend play and imitates sounds the objects make: animal figures, puppets, other items (cars, trucks, etc.).		Uses items for other than intended purpose Carries on an imaginary conversation using: - a toy telephone - baby doll - other items (stuffed animal, book, etc.)	
		Investigates pushing water or food around with hand on high chair tray or table.			Begins to move to the music of varying rhythms, tempos, and types.		Participates in music activities and dances with increased rhythm.	
		Begins to repeat chance sensorimotor activities to elicit a reaction: - bang hands on table - drop a toy			Uses a colorful scarf in different ways such as dancing, waving it or using it as a blanket.		Makes silly faces to see other children and adults react.	

		Anticipates being lifted and moves body accordingly.	
--	--	--	--

Begins to focus attention on one activity or toy for a short period of time.	
Engages in “dump and fill” with items.	
Begins to explore expression with art implements: - scribbling with large crayons - creating markings in finger paint - molding playdough	

Creatively explores and experiments with sensory mediums, combining different types of materials to make something new.	
Uses puppets in dramatic play.	

