

Understanding the Role of Play in the Early Elementary Grades
Session 2 Handout
January 16, 2026

Video for viewing during session

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBT7hK6grT8>

Center/Studio Examples from For ME Programs

Pre-K Lesson Plan: Constructing a Playground:

[https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/bulk/prek4me/unit2friends/week%202%20pdf/Blocks/05 %20Blocks %20Constructing%20A%20Playground.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/bulk/prek4me/unit2friends/week%202%20pdf/Blocks/05%20Blocks%20Constructing%20A%20Playground.pdf)

Kg Lesson Plan: Abiyoyo's Village:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/K%20K%20for%20ME%20U1%20W3%20Centers%20Blocks.pdf>

1st Grade for ME: Animals Surviving and Thriving (Unit 2, Week 1)

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Early%20Learning%20-%201st%20for%20Me%20Unit%202%20Week%201%20Studios%20-%2010.16.2025.pdf>

2nd Grade for ME: Forces of Wind and Water (Unit 2, Week 1)

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Early%20Learning%20-%202nd%20For%20ME%20Unit%202%20Week%201%20Studios%20-%2009.30.2025.pdf>

Center/Studio Brainstorming Activity Link

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ltQO4uZ8wu4ssMQ1JWaqu84bG2s-j7JkEpYxSITLpN0/edit?tab=t.0>

Center/Studio Planning Tool Template

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/13Jdr-SGOd3MINpzDN5xMXPLg-XdgDuor3ggdbU8Divs/copy?tab=t.0>

Additional Videos—Play Through Centers/Studios

Boston Public Schools

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrEI5dkGUUk> (Boston)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6f19m4j9u3M> (Boston-long)

Ontario Play-Based Centers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31gZZZ-XG94&t=20s> (Play 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBT7hK6grT8&t=39s> (Play 2)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kh9PHRWI7c> (Play 3)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65NMWwvjL5o> (Play 4)

Ontario Inquiry-Based Learning

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9cK_eto3HE (Inquiry 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QaKXn0mO44> (Inquiry 2)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwG_JvEpEuk (Inquiry 3)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDGcqeVwKS8> (Inquiry 4)