

DOMAIN 1: APPROACHES TO LEARNING AND COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT**SUB-DOMAIN: COGNITION AND COGNITIVE PROCESSES****REPRESENTATIONAL THOUGHT AND PLAY****GOAL 14: CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN EXPLORATORY PLAY.**

Age Range	Developmental Growth	Child Indicators	Caregiver Strategies
36 to 60 Months	Explore materials and actions with an intended purpose.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Matches, sorts, and groups like objects. ▪ Uses seriation and simple patterning. ▪ Climbs, swings, jumps, dances, and hops to test skills. ▪ Aims, throws, catches, and kicks balls to explore projectile management and imitate skills of others. ▪ Uses tools, hammers, saws, shovels, and levers to explore the physical properties of moving masses. ▪ Plays with wheeled toys (tricycles, scooters, wagons) to explore velocity. ▪ Uses art materials to explore attributes of the materials and how the materials can communicate an idea or action. ▪ Constructs with and manipulates objects to explore spatial relationships. ▪ Creates tests to explore the physical environment (e.g. builds a sand structure with water and sand, pours orange juice in cereal to see how it tastes, or dams up a flowing stream building a rock dam). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide manipulative toys for sorting, classifying, and arranging in groups and sequences, by attribute. ▪ Provide opportunities for children to explore and play with materials that promote skills in math and science foundations (e.g. puzzles, tangrams, magnifying glasses, balances, and counting bears). ▪ Provide time for outdoor activities and play with digging tools, buckets, wheel toys, and balls. ▪ Provide fine motor opportunities during free play times and structure activities based on children's interests and skills. ▪ Add building magazines, blue prints, or pictures to block areas to promote intentional use of materials. ▪ Use books or models to engage children in purposeful use of classroom materials. ▪ Outdoors, have props nearby, including access to water, for easy access when ideas occur.