

DOMAIN 1: APPROACHES TO LEARNING AND COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT			
SUB-DOMAIN: LEARNING APPROACHES			
CURIOSITY, MOTIVATION, EXPLORATION, AND EXPERIMENTATION			
GOAL 1: CHILDREN SHOW CURIOSITY AND INTEREST IN LEARNING AND EXPERIMENTING.			
Age Range	Developmental Growth	Child Indicators	Caregiver Strategies
6 to 18 Months	Demonstrates curiosity through physical exploration and vocalization with objects, people, and environments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shows interest in, explores, manipulates, or stares at objects in the environment.</li> <li>▪ Persists in looking for or searching for an object just out of reach or vision.</li> <li>▪ Points at, gestures, and verbalizes toward or about objects or people.</li> <li>▪ Uses gestures to express emotions relating to exploration (e.g. hands in the air, shaking hands or head to indicate “no,” clapping hands for joy).</li> <li>▪ Explores objects through mouthing, banging, filling and dumping, moving, and throwing.</li> <li>▪ Uses a mix of senses to explore the environment (e.g. tasting, touching, hearing, smelling, and looking).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide support and time for child who is hesitant about new objects and experiences.</li> <li>▪ Repeatedly offer unfamiliar objects, with slow, even approach.</li> <li>▪ Play with child using objects with different textures, sounds, shapes, temperatures, and smells.</li> <li>▪ Provide safe floor play space for child to explore favorite toys and movement.</li> <li>▪ Offer a variety of environments from which a child can explore.</li> <li>▪ Place objects for touching within child’s range.</li> <li>▪ Point out places, objects, and what people are doing.</li> <li>▪ As child begins to eat solids, offer variety in food, textures, and taste. Recognize that child needs to touch and manipulate the food.</li> <li>▪ Respond to child’s sensory cues (e.g. child makes verbalization of frustration), then help child resolve the problem; child drops item and follows it with her eyes to the floor, then comment about how it fell, and put it back, tolerating the child’s repetitious behavior.</li> </ul>