



# Learning & Teaching with Infants

Often educators struggle with programming and curriculum in rooms with infants, feeling like the young children don't do anything or struggle to engage with the planned experiences. Here are some tips on creating valuable learning opportunities...



## Build Relationships

Children are unlikely to learn at their optimum capacity if they do not feel safe and secure. Take the time to build relationships during the routine and play times.



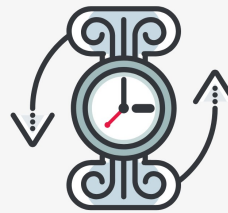
## Build Knowledge

Ensure you have sufficient knowledge on appropriate ways to engage infants in meaningful learning, not just replicating what works for older children.



## Allow for research opportunities

Infants learn best through research, conducting their own experiments as they explore and understand how their world works, and how they work within it.



## Offer time and space to explore

As infants conduct their research they need time to replicate results and cement their learning. Avoid changing the resources too often if the children are still using them.



## Let the children lead the way

Avoid structured, teacher directed lessons as this is not age appropriate. Play alongside the children where they are interested and label, role model and scaffold their learning through play and exploration.



## Add small challenges

To keep infants engaged and developing their abilities and skills add small challenges to the play. Different size/shape/weight/texture can increase the research opportunities with more to discover and understand.

When documenting infants learning focus on what you have noticed the child doing, exploring, developing their skills and knowledge, and you have helped them. Plan for opportunities to explore instead of specific lessons or skills to develop to support this style of documentation.