

Learning opportunities

This information can help guide an awareness of possible learning that might occur during these experiences. This is not a complete list and learning will depend on how children engage, and how educators respond to this. Please note all experiences should be offered to children, not required of them, to support agency and positive relationships with children.

Heuristic Play - Allowing children to explore everyday items to learn about the world around them

Potential learning opportunities

- Children become familiar with items before using them in their intended purpose so they can explore and investigate
- Sensory exploration and development
- Building awareness of different items to support transferring knowledge in a range of areas
- Creativity using the items in a diverse range of innovative ways without set expectations
- Building an awareness of likes and dislikes to support future play decisions based on preferences

Potential interactions

- Give children the freedom to explore items in a way that they choose instead of how the items were intended based on our adult awareness
- Take cues from the children on how they are choosing to use the items to guide future experiences and opportunities
- Role model curiosity to support children's exploration
- Limit boundaries that control children's play based on assumptions, if they are safe in their ideas let them explore, if they are not safe can you find a way to make it safe?
- Label and mirror with infants to validate their ideas

Approved Learning Framework Links

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - Become confident in how to use a range of items; 2 - Learn to respect the items; 3 - Developing physical and sensory skills; 4 - Engaging with a range of dispositions and skills through the play; 5 - Developing communication skills and vocabulary

Practices:

Holistic, integrated and interconnected approaches;
Responsiveness to children; Play-based learning an intentionality;
Learning environments

