

Inquiry learning

Information for teachers

This resource supports teachers in their planning and interactions with children to align characteristics of young learners with a range and balance of age-appropriate pedagogies for teaching, learning and assessment. It can be used to develop a common language and understanding for teachers to use as part of their curriculum decision-making process.

Inquiry learning	Examples	Qualities of age-appropriate pedagogies
<p><i>Inquiry learning</i> in the early years is about finding things out. It aims to engage children and teachers in active ways as they pose and answer questions, solve problems and explore ideas.</p> <p>Inquiry learning is a way of describing how children and teachers actively engage in hands-on learning using investigative interactions, exploration, problem solving, and research.</p> <p>This learning provides a clear curriculum focus with opportunities to connect curriculum learning areas.</p> <p>Inquiry learning opportunities can be planned in advance or can be spontaneous and responsive to children's interests and investigations.</p> <p>Starting points for inquiry learning can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children's own questions, problems or ideas • group-identified topics • teacher-directed inquiry linked to the children's own knowledge. <p>Inquiry learning provides opportunities for teachers to document children's thinking and learning. Children can make their thinking visible as spoken/signed, written, multimodal or visual representations, e.g. drawing.</p> <p>The evidence teachers gather may be used to monitor children's learning and inform or incorporate a common assessment task.</p>	<p>Examples of inquiry learning include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigations and provocations • research • problem-based learning (problem solving). <p>Inquiry learning opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exploring children's interests • responding to current news items • hands-on learning, with children talking to solve problems • engaging children in reflection • children as active researchers. 	<p>Age-appropriate pedagogical approaches are active, language rich, collaborative and playful.</p> <p>Qualities of age-appropriate pedagogical approaches include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high-quality interactions, such as language modelling • sustained shared thinking • scaffolding • feedback • higher-order thinking. 