

## **Checklist of Essential Ingredients of Active Learning**

**Materials:** There are abundant materials that children can use in many ways.

Children use a variety of materials.

-Practical everyday objects

-Natural and found materials

-Tools

-Messy, sticky, gooey, drippy, squishy, heavy, large materials

Children have space to use materials

Children have time to use materials

**Manipulation:** Adults encourage children to manipulate objects freely.

Children explore actively with all their senses

Children discover relationships through direct experience.

Children transform and combine materials.

Children use age appropriate tools and equipment.

Children use their large muscles.

**Choice:** The child chooses what to do.

Children initiate activities that grow from personal interests and intentions.

Children choose materials.

Children decide what to do with materials.

**Language and thought from the child:** The child describes what he or she is doing.

Children talk about their experiences.

Children talk about what they are doing in their own words.

# Checklist of Essential Ingredients of Active Learning

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**Adult support:** Adults recognize and encourage children's intentions, reflections, problem solving and creativity.

Adults form partnerships with children.

- Put themselves on the children's physical level.
- Follow children's ideas and interests.
- Converse in a give and take style.

Adults listen for and encourage children's thinking.

- Listen to children as they work and play.
- Converse with children about what they are doing and thinking.
- Focus on children's action
- Make comments that repeat, amplify, and build on what child says.
- Pause frequently to give children time to think and gather their thoughts into words.
- Accept children's answers and explanations even when they are "wrong".

Adults encourage children to do things for themselves.

- Stand by patiently and wait while children take care of things independently.
- Show understanding of children's mishaps.
- Refer children to one another for ideas, assistance and conversation.
- Encourage children to ask and answer their own questions.