

SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

ADVANCING SEL: FOSTERING CHARACTER, CREATIVITY, AND CULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

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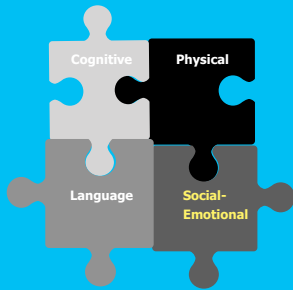
OVERVIEW

- ▬ Level set with necessary experiences
- ▬ SEL Developmental Milestones
- ▬ What does character look like in the classroom?
- ▬ Embracing an Acknowledgement of Culture in the Classroom
- ▬ Supporting Creativity
- ▬ Next Steps / Questions



You will notice an overlap of domain development in lesson examples as well as the intention of providing how our work manifests over time.

ANCHOR IN THE 4 DEVELOPMENTAL DOMAINS



HIGH ENGAGEMENT :
CHAT AND POLL QUESTIONS

EARLY EXPERIENCES (OR LACK THERE
OF) CARRY ON THROUGH LIFE



IN THE CHAT:

1. WHAT MIGHT HE HAVE MISSED OUT ON EARLY ON?
2. IN OUR CONTEXT, WHAT ROLE DID THE FLIGHT ATTENDANT PLAY IN SUPPORTING HIM?



IN THE CHAT:

WHO USES CREATIVE CURRICULUM AND TEACHING STRATEGIES GOLD?

YES / NO

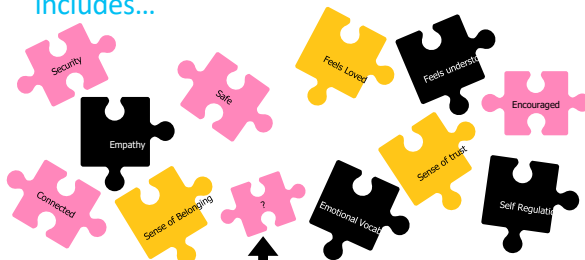
ANCHORING OUR APPROACH AND DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

- Developing empathy
- Is self-directed
- Tries new things
- Shows strong emotions
- Plays games with simple rules
- Follows and makes up simple rules
- Engages in waiting to take a turn
- Developing friendships
- Role-plays
- Developing patience
- Increasing attention span
- Shows independence
- Engages in play (solitary, parallel, and associative play)
- Plays with familiar and unfamiliar peers
- Begins turn taking, sharing
- Begins perspective taking
- Cries easily
- Shows fear



In the Chat:
What resonates
with you in this
list of
milestones?

healthy social emotional development
includes...



What do you feel may be missing? Pop it in the cha

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Personality Development

AGES 4-5
BIO-BEHAVIORAL
SHIFT IN THE
BRAIN

Enhancing the
Self-Portrait
using
technology



TEAM PLANNING MEETING

10 min

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT

**Collaboratively plan a character
development activity:**

Small or whole group

Materials necessary

Length of time

Differentiation/Accommodations/Modifications

What else should you be considering in your
planning?

Pop this in the chat →

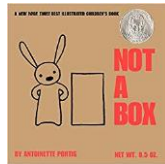
WHAT ELSE COULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED?

TSG data to inform the goals/objective
Process of documenting and assessing
Learning outcomes achievement
Follow up activity?
Other?

WOULD YOU MAKE ANY CHANGES TO THIS CURRENT PLAN FOR YOUR GROUP?

SUPPORTING CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT SIMULTANEOUSLY

IMAGINATION



WHAT'S INSIDE?



WHAT CAN YOU SHARE ABOUT YOURSELF?

What do you like?
 What is interesting to you?
 What do you like to do?
 What are you want to try?
 What do you like to learn about?

DEVELOPING CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND FINE MOTOR SKILLS



Not a Toilet Paper Roll!

Chat Question:

What ideas are coming to mind to better support creativity / creative th



Character Development with Empathy



CREATIVITY IN THE CLASSROOM

ENCOURAGING VOICE AND BELONGING



BUILDING COMMUNITY WITH CONFIDENCE

Our Tinker Time song....

I am positive, open,
capable, and creative.
I am positive, open,
capable, and creative.
I am positive, open, and
capable.
I am positive, open, and
capable.
I am positive, open,
capable, and creative.

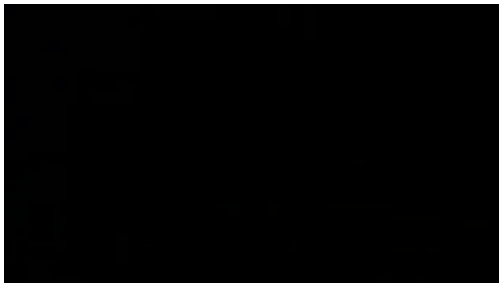


Collaboratively creating plans...



CHAT QUESTION:
HOW HAVE YOU PROVIDED CREATIVE
COLLABORATIVE
PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN IN YOUR
CARE?

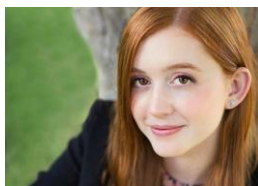
Nurturing Creativity Part 1



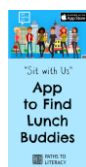
Nurturing Creativity Part 2



WHAT DO THESE EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES
MEAN FOR THE FUTURE FOR OUR STUDENTS?



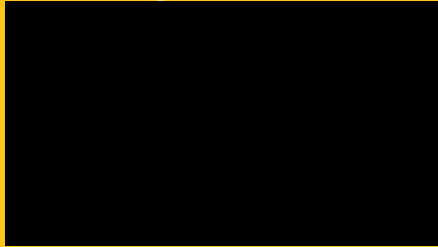
Natalie Hampton



CHAT QUESTION:

HOW CAN YOU BETTER RECOGNIZE OPPORTUNITIES
TO ENCOURAGE AND/OR SUPPORT CREATIVITY
WITH THE CHILDREN IN YOUR CARE?

CREATIVITY WITHIN BEING A
THINKER OVER TIME



3 yrs - 14 yrs old



In the chat:

In your work,
what comes to
mind hearing
these students
reflect on
being a thinker
and being
creative?

CULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

POLL QUESTION:

HOW COMFORTABLE ARE YOU WITH
ACKNOWLEDGING CULTURE IN THE
CLASSROOM?

POLL QUESTION:

HOW DO YOU ACKNOWLEDGE CULTURE IN YOUR
CLASSROOM?

- A. DRAMATIC PLAY
B. CLASSROOM LIBRARY
C. BOTH
D. I AM STILL FIGURING THIS OUT

ACKNOWLEDGING CULTURE

- ☞ Recognize cultures outside of the ones present in your classroom/group
- ☞ Classroom library is inclusive
- ☞ Field trips (when your site is able) to museums or community centers
- ☞ Classroom visitors
- ☞ Music played during the day
- ☞ Videos shown to students to expand awareness
- ☞ Communicate community events/festivals to families
- ☞ Family Scrapbooks
- ☞ Family picture frames in the classroom
- ☞ Classroom materials: puppets, materials in the art center, etc

In the chat:

1. What have you done here that has been successful?
2. What is new to you that you would like to try?

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

- Food tasting (acknowledging allergies)
- Professional development: Identify blindspots to expand to be more inclusive
- Acknowledging ones own biases with planning
- Partner with parents/guardians/colleagues to learn more and plan more intentionally

Overall...

WHAT'S COMING TO MIND FOR YOU
AS YOU GET INTO THE SY26-27
SCHOOL YEAR?

POP A THOUGHT/IDEA IN THE CHAT

WHAT'S COMING UP??

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