

Cognitive Engagement...

What does it look like?

When children have **Cognitive Engagement** they lead their own learning and develop curiosity that keeps them making connections and asking questions throughout the activity. Examples include setting goals, planning activities, and solving challenges in play; and reflecting on the learning experience.

Why is this important for my child?

It is important because children develop problem solving skills, think on higher levels, and create when they are cognitively engaged. They learn to explore and wonder about things around them.

How do I make it happen?

We can make it happen anywhere! Supporting cognitive engagement means we find ways for children to "lead their learning" instead of having others "tell them."

- Let your child **control** the activity in pretend play like "dress up."
- Increase the opportunities for your child to **respond** by asking what they think about an activity you are doing.
- Allow your child to explore **independently**- put out some blocks and see what they build.
- Instead of asking "Do you want help?" ask **questions** like "What do you need help with?"
- Have play dates where they can **talk and work together** with others.
- Give **choices** whenever possible - "Which shirt do you want to wear today?"
- Encourage **problem solving** skills by creating challenges like leaving a favorite toy in sight but out of reach so they need to ask for it.