

The Kindergarten Program

Administrator's Dialogue Guide

Planning

- The plan includes big ideas/questions.
- Evidence of the distinguishing features (i.e., environment, conversation, play) of early childhood education is visible in the teacher's planning.
- Outcomes are clearly identified in the planning.
- The teacher's planning allows for children's interests to be developed.
- The teacher's planning clearly identifies how and what is to be assessed.

Environment

- The environment encourages wonder, curiosity, and inquiry.
- The environment focuses on holistic learning (i.e., intellectual, physical, socio-emotional, spiritual).
- Materials are open-ended and flexible.
- Multiple environments (e.g., indoors, outdoors, emotional, aesthetic) support holistic development and children's learning.
- Children's families, lives, and interests are reflected in the environment.

Conversation

- The teacher involves children, families, and colleagues in conversations.
- Conversations are used to discover children's questions, interests, and developmental language use, and to scaffold children's learning.
- Open-ended questions are used by the teacher.
- Children's conversation is filled with wonder, curiosity, and inquiry.
- Reflection (e.g., teacher and child both reflect on learning) is promoted through conversation.

Play

- Invitations are used to explore the children's prior knowledge, enhance learning, and learn about children's interests.
- Play is purposefully and intentionally planned for and facilitated by the teacher.
- Children are provided with adequate space and time (45-60 minutes) for play.
- The children's play has an inquiry and exploration focus.
- The teacher is involved with and guiding the children's play through interaction, observation, and documentation.

Self-reflection

- I meet regularly with the teacher to discuss specific goals, outcomes, strategies, and assessment results to improve children's learning in kindergarten.
- I encourage and support the teacher to take the risks necessary to ensure an effective kindergarten program.
- I help the staff reflect on school and classroom practice and on research-based best practices that support learning in kindergarten.