Learning Outcome 4: Children are capable and confident learners

# What do I want my child to learn?

* An understanding of mathematical concepts.
* Develop problem solving and experimentation skills.
* Use literacy & numeracy in play.
* Children show curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity and imagination through their play and learning.
* Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another.
* Children resource their own learning through connecting with people and things.

# How can I support my child’s progress?

* Encourage your child’s active involvement in play and learning.
* Provide a play environment that is flexible and open-ended, for example have a range of toys and play spaces for your child to choose from.
* Encourage your child to engage in both independent and joint play with you.
* Listen carefully to your child’s ideas and have a conversation with them.
* Role model showing wonder, curiosity and using your imagination in play and through everyday experiences.
* Support your child to try out their new ideas and take on challenges.
* Talk to your child about what they have learned after a play experience.
* Build on the knowledge that your child already has – how can you extend it?
* Provide your child with unhurried time and repeated exposure to the same experience so that they have time to experiment and solve problems independently.
* Include numbers and words around your home, for example hang up newspaper clippings, have books available, print some numbers.
* Find opportunities in everyday routines that will support learning, for example:
  + counting steps on the way to another room or outside
  + communicate the process of what you are doing when you are cooking or doing household chores
  + draw your child’s attention to patterns and relationships in the environment.

## How will I know that my child is learning?

* You child expresses wonder and interest in their play.
* Your child is curious and enthusiastic in their learning.
* Your child uses play to investigate, imagine and explore ideas.
* You child follows and extends their own interests with enthusiasm, energy and concentration.
* You child initiates and contributes to play experiences emerging from their own ideas.
* Your child participates in a variety of play experiences.
* Your child perseveres and experiences the satisfaction of achievement when they are trying to solve a problem.
* Your child persists, even when they are having difficulty.

Tips for learning at home

* Try to follow your child’s lead as much as possible and allow your child choice about which play experiences and activities they want to participate in.
* Give you child as much or as little time as they need for each learning experience
* Provide your child with uninterrupted play time where possible.
* Support your child when they ask or show signs that they need help with their task.
* Offer praise and encouragement for any learning attempts, even if they don’t get it quite right.
* Engage in discussion with your child about their play and what they are learning.
* It doesn’t matter if the suggested experiences don’t go according to plan, allow your child to lead the play and learning.

# Maths

# More or less

**What to do**

Choose any items and group the items into two groups. Encourage your child to tell you which group has more in it and which group has less.

**Ideas to extend the learning**

* Start by telling a story
* Bree has 4 sheep in one paddock and 2 horses in another paddock
* Have your child place the animals into the paddocks (two different coloured counters if you don’t have animals)
* How many animals does Bree have?
* Push all of the animals together so that your child can count them all.

**Consider**

* Was your child able to recognise which group had more and which group had less?
* Did your child use the words more/less?
* Did your child count each group before deciding which group had more or less or did they recognise which group had more or less without counting?
* Did your child show an understanding of joining the two parts to make a whole?
* Was your child able placer the correct amount of animals into each paddock?
* Was your child able to work out how many animals there were all together?

**Ideas to extend the learning**

* Encourage your child to find other materials in the house that you could play this game with
* Incorporate discussions about more and less, and how many in daily conversations and routines, for example how many toilet rolls do we have left?
* Use these [literacy and numeracy cards](https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/ed13-0077_ec_literacy_and_numeracy_building_good_practice_resources_literacy_and_numeracy_cards_acc.pdf) for further ideas

# Construction

# What can you build?

**What to do**

* Set up a table with materials that your child can construct with. This could include but is not limited to things such as pegs, paddle pop sticks, cans, corks, blocks, boxes.
* Allow your child some time to construct something of their choice with these materials.
* After your child has made their construction they may then want to draw a picture of it or take a photo of it.

**Consider**

* Did they have any difficulties or face any challenges?
* How did they react to those challenges?
* Did they use problem solving strategies etc when building?

**Ideas to extend the learning**

* Set up a play space with blocks and pictures of buildings and structures for inspiration.
* Look at the pictures with your child and discuss the shapes of the building. Look at the blocks with them and ask which blocks they could use to create that building. Encourage your child to build the structure with their blocks.
* Allow your child to build something of their choice if they do not want to build the structure in the picture.
* Give your child uninterrupted time to build and support if needed.

# Literacy

# Writing

**What to do**

* Set up a play space that gives your child the opportunity to practice their writing skills.
* We do not expect the children to write actual words/letters. Simply encourage them to do their own type of writing.
* You can play with your child and do things to encourage writing such as playing shops and asking them to write down your order.

# Learn your name

**What to do**

* Incorporate the letters of your child’s name into one of their interests.
* For example, creating letters from playdough or cutting shapes that look like the letters of their name.
* Discuss the letters of your child’s name with them as they play.

**Consider**

* Was your child able to recognise some or all of the letters of their name?

**Ideas to extend the learning**

* Encourage your child to write their name on cards to family members.
* Tell your child what you are writing when you are writing a shopping list or filling in a form.
* Encourage your child to recognise their name in a list.
* Sing songs that spell out your child’s name.
* Encourage your child to write whenever they choose.
* Use your child’s drawings to create a story and write the words that they say to match the pictures.
* Use these [literacy and numeracy cards](https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/ed13-0077_ec_literacy_and_numeracy_building_good_practice_resources_literacy_and_numeracy_cards_acc.pdf) for further ideas.

# Creative arts

**Materials**

* Paint
* Pictures of your child’s choice

**What to do**

* Set up an art space with pictures of your child’s choice. These could be things such as animals, flowers, buildings etc.
* Place the pictures on the table/easel and ensure that you have paint colours that have been used in the pictures.
* Sit with your child and talk about the pictures before encouraging your child to have a go at painting their own version of the picture.
* It is ok if your child chooses to paint something else.
* Take a photo of your child’s masterpiece and also the inspirational piece.

**Consider**

* Did they have difficulty with this task? Did they persist if they found difficult or did they give up?

**Ideas to extend the learning**

* Provide a range of mediums for your child to create art with using paints, example water paints, crayons, chalk, fingers, sticks, different sized paint brushes.
* Give your child uninterrupted time to engage in art experiences if and when they choose.

# Creative crafts

**Materials**

* A variety of craft materials such as paper, patty pans, pom poms, fabric, pipe cleaners, paddle pop sticks, paper bags, paper plates etc.
* Scissors
* Glue
* Sticky tape

**What to do**

* Set up a table with a variety of craft materials for your child. Allow them time to get creative.

**Consider**

* Were they able to create their masterpiece independently using their own ideas or did they want you to help them?

**Ideas to extend the learning**

* Ask your child what other materials they would like in the craft area
* Encourage natural, recyclable materials where possible – what can you find around the house or in the recycling that could be used for craft?