



ONTARIO'S PEDAGOGY FOR EARLY YEARS

HOW DOES LEARNING HAPPEN?



How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years builds on the *Ontario Early Years Policy Framework* and is a key component of Ontario's vision for the early year.

How Does Learning Happen? is organized around four foundational conditions that are important for children to grow and flourish... These four foundations apply regardless of age, ability, culture, language, geography, or setting.



Belonging: Refers to a sense of connectedness to others, an individual's experience of being valued, of forming relationships with others and making contributions as part of a group, a community, the natural world.

Well-Being: Addresses the importance of physical and mental health and wellness. It incorporates capacities such as self-care, sense of self, and self-regulation skills.



Engagement: Suggests a state of being involved and focused. When children are able to explore the world around them with their natural curiosity and exuberance, they are fully engaged.

Expression: Or communication (to be heard, as well as to listen) may take many different forms. Through their bodies, words, and use of materials, children develop capacities for increasingly complex communication

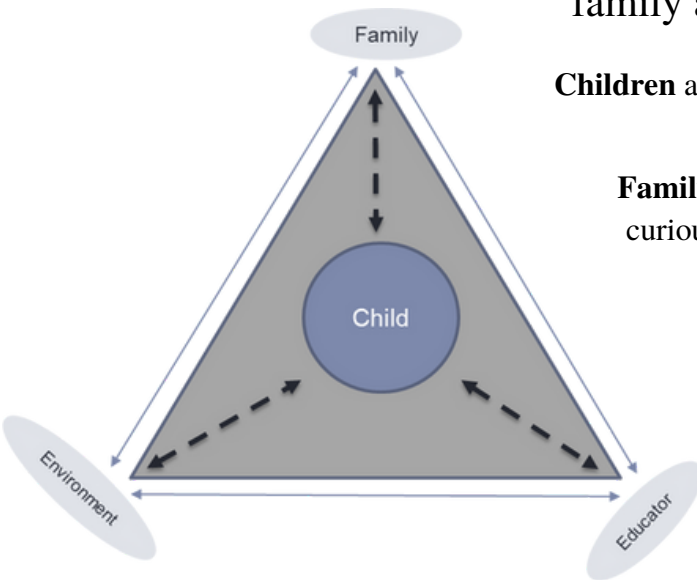




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HOW DOES LEARNING HAPPEN?

How Does Learning Happen? is a resource for all educators working with children 0-12. It's a part of what you, as an educator, do everyday to support the development of the children, family and other educators.



Children are competent, capable of complex thinking, curious, and rich in potential.

Families are composed of individuals who are competent and capable, curious, and rich in experience. Families love their children and want the best for them. Families **are** experts on their children...

Educators are competent and capable, curious, and rich in experience. they are knowledgeable, caring, reflective and resourceful **professionals**...

Questions To Think About

How do you know children truly feel like they belong in the program? What do you see, and hear?

How do educators feel like they belong in the program?

What does it look like, feel like and sound like when children are fully engaged in the program?

What does it look like when educators are engaged in the program?

How are expressing feelings and emotions supported in the program?

How are self-care and independence skills supported in the program?

Additional Resources to Support the Four Foundations

Understanding Emotions Bin #: 1887

We Are All Alike, We Are All Different Bin#: 1692

Musical Experiences- Resources & Instruments Bin#: 11427

Active Minds, Active Bodies! Bin#: 5104

THRC Podcast: <https://thrc.ca/thrc-podcast/>

[How Does Learning Happen? Document](#)



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HOW DOES LEARNING HAPPEN? IN THE MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENT

INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION

How Does Learning Happen? is organized around four foundational conditions that are important for children to grow and flourish.

These four foundations apply regardless of age, ability, culture, language, geography, or setting..... They are conditions that children naturally seek for themselves.



Belonging

- ✓ The warm, inviting, and inclusive atmosphere supports children to feel accepted, respected, and valued.
- ✓ Multi-sensory and hands-on learning supports diverse learning styles; solitary, social, visual, physical, verbal and logical.
- ✓ Mix-age classrooms foster a sense of community and create a family-like atmosphere where children feel connected and supported by their peers.
- ✓ Exploration and engagement with materials freely promote a sense of ownership over their learning environment.





HOW DOES LEARNING HAPPEN? IN THE MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENT



What can be done to strengthen relationships and ensure social inclusion, participation, and a sense of **belonging** for each child, family and educator?

How do you know children, families and other educators are fully **engaged**?

How can you make sure that every child, regardless of their communication abilities, is heard and can **express** themselves in the program?



Engagement

- ✓ The prepared environment promotes active engagement in learning through hands-on, experiential activities. Child-led activities and educators follow the children's lead to guide them as required. Self-correcting material, allows children to learn through trial and error, fostering perseverance and problem-solving skills.
- ✓
- ✓

Expression

- ✓ Various forms of communication, including language, art, drama, music and movement support expression. Open-ended exploration and expression, value each child's unique perspective and voice. Freedom of choice encourages self-expression as children select materials and activities that resonate with them.
- ✓
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HOW DOES LEARNING HAPPEN?

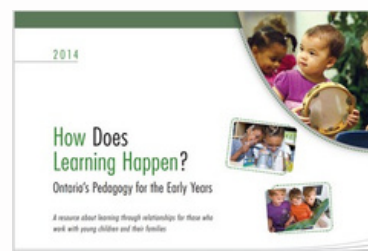
IN THE MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENT



Well-Being

- ✓ Geared towards holistic development. The environment serves the particular needs of each child's stage of development. It provides freedom for children to learn at their own pace.
- ✓ The prepared environment is carefully designed to meet the developmental needs of children, providing opportunities for movement, independence, and self-care.

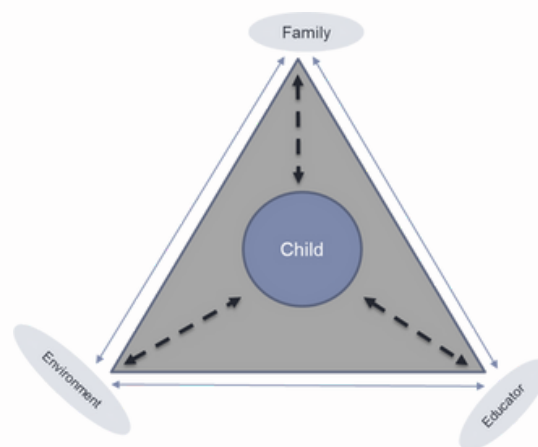
What environmental factors may be causing stress for children and/or educators? What changes can be made to reduce stress for *all* who use the space?



<https://files.ontario.ca/edu-how-does-learning-happen-en-2021-03-23.pdf>

Foundations	Goals for Children	Expectations for Programs
Belonging	Every child has a sense of belonging when he or she is connected to others and contributes to their world.	Early childhood programs cultivate authentic, caring relationships and connections to create a sense of belonging among and between children, adults, and the world around them.
Well-Being	Every child is developing a sense of self, health, and well-being.	Early childhood programs nurture children's healthy development and support their growing sense of self.
Engagement	Every child is an active and engaged learner who explores the world with body, mind, and senses.	Early childhood programs provide environments and experiences to engage children in active, creative, and meaningful exploration, play, and inquiry.
Expression	Every child is a capable communicator who expresses himself or herself in many ways.	Early childhood programs foster communication and expression in all forms.

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Come into THRC's Resource Library for additional resources that support the four foundations



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