



Early Childhood Education Series

TOPIC: *The Importance of Play and Inquiry*

Below are reflective questions to supplement the HAIS video on the importance of play and inquiry in early childhood classrooms.

1. What is the difference between free play and guided play?
2. Why is play important for child development and learning?
3. In what ways do you currently incorporate guided play in your class?
4. What other ways might you be able to incorporate guided play to accomplish learning goals and objectives?
5. How might you create a more effective environment to encourage purposeful play?
6. Why is outdoor play important?
7. In what ways might you use outdoor play to accomplish learning objectives?
8. What types of classroom activities might be made play-based in order to better engage students?
9. Discuss when and how teachers should adjust their level of involvement with instruction during play-based activities.
10. How do you currently observe students during play to inform your teaching strategies? What are other methods of observation you can implement to understand and further promote student learning and growth?