

Suggested Presentation Timeline: Exploration



This lesson outline is designed to be a teaching tool for early learning professionals who teach this information in a wide variety of settings. Therefore, please use the outline below as a guide and modify it as necessary to meet the needs of your audience and schedule.

Minutes 0 - 10 Welcome and Introductions

- Begin your presentation or workshop by creating a comfortable environment.
- Introduce yourself to your group / audience and orient them to the environment (restrooms, important announcements).

Minutes 10 - 40 Presentation of Topic

Provide your group with an overview of the topic you will be presenting. This brings all the participants together quickly as well as to engage the group in the learning. Here are some options for how to do this:

1. Tell a story that engages the audience.

Kaden is a two year old boy. His parents would describe him as “busy” and “in to everything.” Kaden likes to open and close cupboards repeatedly. When he finds a cupboard that looks interesting to him, he takes everything out. If his parents try to put the items back in the cupboard, Kaden gets frustrated and hold the cupboard closed. How is this an example of exploration?

2. Provide a definition of the topic / terms that are being discussed.

Definition of Exploration: Exploration describes the manner in which children use all of their senses to gather information and make sense of the world around them.

3. Some educators find it helpful to begin with a general question. For example:


- When you think of the word exploration, what ideas come to mind?
- What are some of the different ways children of different ages explore their world?

4. Provide an overview that introduces your audience to the research-based information about the topic.

Exploration is one of the first and most important ways children begin to make sense of their surroundings. Infants use their sense of touch and taste to learn; this is one reason why babies so often put things in their mouths. Toddlers become increasingly curious about the rules and ways of the world; this is why they may continue to “test” their parents by engaging in a variety of experimental behaviors. Preschoolers are increasingly curious about the world beyond their home and familiar environment; they may be eager to do things independently like “big” boys



and girls. All of these behaviors are part of the children's healthy development. Parents and caregivers can foster this kind of exploration by encouraging their children's curiosity and providing a safe and nurturing environment for their children to learn and grow.

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- Review the goals of what you intend to teach, describe what tools/resources they can expect to gain by attending the event, and present the Parenting Counts Program Curriculum.

Minutes 40 - 50 Applied Learning Activity

- Most audiences are ready for a change in activity after 20-30 minutes of lecture. Consider the composition of your group and decide what type of activity best meets their needs.
- Some educators choose to have participants work in pairs to maximize comfort with the topic, others opt for a group discussion to allow a variety of opinions to be heard and validated.
- Parenting Counts offers multiple video options that can be used during this time to encourage discussion or to continue the learning experience.

Minutes 50 - 60 Closure and Evaluation

- Closure: Be sure to recap the key messages of the presentation as well as provide tools that incorporate the learning into parenting practices.
- Evaluation: Please distribute an evaluation form as part of your presentation. It is important to give participants an opportunity to comment on the presentation as well as to provide you with an assessment of their learning.

