



INSPIRING EDUCATORS *to* INSPIRE CHILDREN

In the HighScope Curriculum, young children build or “construct” their knowledge of the world. That means learning is not simply a process of adults giving information to children, which is what you might find in curriculum that provides pre-fab lessons or pre-planned themes. Rather, in a HighScope setting, children participate actively in the learning process. They discover things through direct experience with people, objects, events, and ideas. Preschoolers also make plans and follow through on their interests and intentions.

HighScope teachers are as active and involved as children in the classroom. They thoughtfully provide materials, plan activities, and talk with (not at) children in ways that both support and challenge what children are observing and thinking. Activities are both child initiated (built upon children’s natural curiosity) and developmentally appropriate (matched to children’s current and emerging abilities). HighScope calls this approach active participatory learning – a process in which teachers and students are partners in shaping the learning experience.

The daily routine in HighScope programs is a consistent framework for the day that provides a balanced variety of experiences and learning opportunities. Children engage in both individual and social play, participate in small- and large- group activities, assist with clean-up, socialize during meals, develop self-care skills, and exercise their small and large muscles. The most important segment of the daily routine is the plan-do-review sequence, in which children make choices about what they will do, carry out their ideas, and reflect upon their activities with adults and other children.

This educational approach, in which children and adults share responsibility for learning, builds essential school-readiness skills. In addition to addressing traditional academic subjects, the HighScope Curriculum promotes independence, curiosity, decision making, cooperation, persistence, creativity, and problem solving.