

## How Does Learning Happen? Questions



To guide educators in understanding and implementing the four foundations of *How Does Learning Happen? (HDLH)* with a focus on children's learning, here are some questions they could consider:

Foundation	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.

### Questions to Support Learning for Belonging:

How do we create a community where every child feels included and accepted?

What opportunities do we provide for children to connect with peers, educators, and families?

How can we celebrate diversity and promote an inclusive learning environment?

What strategies can we use to support children in developing empathy, compassion, and a sense of social responsibility?

Where do they play?

Who do they play with?

What type of play do they prefer?

Who do they talk to?

What do they talk about?

How do they approach problems when in play?

How do they demonstrate empathy?

How do they interact with other children?

How do they interact with other educators?

Do they participate in larger groups?

Foundation	Goals for Children	Expectations for Programs
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.

#### Questions to Support Learning for Engagement:

How do we create environments that invite children to explore, play, and inquire?

What activities or experiences can we provide to spark children's curiosity and interest?

How can we tailor learning opportunities to match the unique interests and abilities of each child?

What strategies can we use to encourage active participation and meaningful engagement in learning experiences?

How do you observe children actively participating in learning experiences?

What signs do you notice when children are deeply involved and focused on an activity or task?

How do children demonstrate their curiosity and eagerness to explore new ideas or materials?

In what ways do children initiate and contribute to discussions or group activities?

How do children express their preferences and interests in choosing activities or materials?

What behaviours indicate that children are making connections between their prior knowledge and new learning experiences?

How do children collaborate with peers or adults to accomplish tasks or solve problems?

Can you identify moments when children take ownership of their learning and demonstrate independence?

How do children demonstrate joy, enthusiasm, or pride in their achievements or discoveries?

Foundation	Goals for Children	Expectations for Programs
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

#### Questions to Support Learning for Expression Foundation:

How do we help children express themselves creatively and authentically?

What opportunities do we provide for children to communicate their thoughts, feelings, and ideas?

How can we encourage children to express themselves through various mediums, such as art, music, movement, and language?

How can you tell if a child is excited about a topic or activity?

How do you notice if a child feels confused or unsure about a situation?

Can you describe signs that a child might be feeling frustrated or overwhelmed?

What behaviours do you observe when a child is engaged and focused?

How do you recognize when a child is feeling proud of their work or accomplishments?

What nonverbal cues indicate that a student feels shy or hesitant to participate?

Are there particular facial expressions or body language that suggest a child is feeling bored or disinterested?

What signs might indicate a child feeling comfortable and safe in the classroom?

How do you notice if a child feels empathetic towards their peers or shows compassion?

Foundation	Goals for Children	Expectations for Programs
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.

#### Questions to Support Learning for Well-Being Foundation:

How do we create a nurturing and supportive environment that promotes children's physical, emotional, and mental well-being?

What strategies can we use to help children develop self-regulation skills and cope with stress or challenges?

How can we foster positive relationships and a sense of belonging among children?

What practices can we implement to ensure children feel safe, respected, and valued in our learning environment?

How do they manage their snacks and lunches?

How do they manage transitions?

How do they manage their safety?

How do they manage the emotions of others and their own emotions?

What activity do they manage into?

How do they respond to their emotions?