

Active Learning

This is a 55-minute workshop.

Materials

- Play dough
- Tooth picks
- Small buttons, beads, or dried beans
- Chart paper
- Markers
- Handout — *Active Learning*
- PowerPoint slides

Key Developmental Indicators (KDIs)

Active learning is a component of all the KDIs.



Young children learn by testing out their ideas and exploring through all their senses.

Workshop Activity	Agenda	Materials
<p>Welcome and Objectives</p> <p>5 minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Welcome participants and introduce yourself. Explain that you would like to talk about how to support children’s active learning. ▶ Tell participants that, in this workshop, they will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about HighScope’s philosophy of active learning • Discuss the five ingredients of active learning • Learn and share ways to support active learning at home 	<p>PP 1 (Workshop title)</p> <p>PP 2 (“Objectives”)</p>
<p>Opening Activity</p> <p>20 minutes</p>	<p>Fun With Play Dough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Give each participant some play dough. Have participants follow your directions to make a snowman with their play dough. Tell participants that they should make each of the three balls of play dough the same size as yours. Talk about the concepts of size (e.g., small, medium, and large), and quiz participants on the different sizes. ▶ Instruct participants to use toothpicks to create the snowman face and to place the small buttons down the front of their snowman, as you direct. Make sure that participants follow your directions and do not work ahead. ▶ Next, ask the participants to set aside their snowman. Give them another ball of play dough and the buttons, beads, or dried beans. Invite them to take a few minutes to use the play dough in any way they would like. Interact with the participants by showing interest and making comments about what they are doing. ▶ Have participants break into groups at different tables; ask the participants to compare their two play dough experiences. Which was more enjoyable? From which activity did they learn the most about how to use play dough? ▶ Using two pieces of chart paper, create lists of the concepts participants learned during each activity (e.g., in the first activity, participants learned how to follow the teacher’s directions and about the concepts of small, medium, and large). ▶ If needed, help participants “see” the learning that took place during the second activity. Make connections between what you saw participants doing with the play dough and curriculum content (e.g., math concepts, problem solving, cooperative play). 	<p>PP 3 (“Fun With Play Dough”)</p> <p>Play dough Toothpicks Buttons Beads Dry beans</p> <p>PP 4 (“Compare the Activities”)</p> <p>Chart paper Markers</p>

Workshop Activity	Agenda	Materials
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Talk about how, throughout the daily routine, teachers in HighScope settings make sure that children are engaged in active learning experiences. Refer back to the list of what participants learned during the play dough activity at the beginning of this workshop. ▶ Emphasize again that when children have the opportunity to play with toys and materials in their own ways, they are also learning. 	
	<p>Open-Ended Toys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Introduce the concept of open-ended toys. That is, toys and materials that can be used in endless ways based upon a child's interest, imagination, and development. ▶ Open-ended toys offer children choices in how to use/manipulate them and can be used by children at all developmental levels. They are limited only by a child's imagination. 	<p>PP 7 (Open Ended Toys)</p>
<p>Application 10 minutes</p>	<p>Active Learning At Home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ask participants to think of an activity their child enjoys doing at home. Have participants discuss with the other members of their table groups whether their child is experiencing the five ingredients of active learning from that activity. Have participants determine whether the materials their child uses are open-ended. Share ideas from each table group with the entire group. ▶ Reiterate that when more of the ingredients of active learning are present, the learning experience becomes richer. 	<p>PP 8 (“Active Learning at Home”)</p>
<p>At Home 5 minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Discuss the following strategies, which your workshop participants can use to encourage active learning at home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow your child to use materials in different ways. • Give your child time to think about and try out ideas and solve problems with materials on his or her own. • Watch how your child plays or uses materials, to better understand your child's thinking. • Talk to your child about what he or she is doing. Play with your child, using the materials in the same way that your child does. ▶ Ask participants to choose one of the strategies, and give an example of how they could implement this strategy at home. 	<p>PP 9 (“How to Support Active Learning”)</p>