

Examining Learner Agency in your setting

How are learners actively responsible for their own learning?

Where are students exercising their agency?

What is the Learner doing?

Learners:

- are actively engaged in various stages of learning, including: thinking about, planning, modifying and creating
- are actively involved in discussion, questioning and by being self-directed in their creating (as opposed to passive receiving)
- apply their understanding of concepts through the construction of their projects/play
- make connections to the real world by taking past experiences into their play worlds
- have an active voice and stake in the classroom/community
- face challenges and are given the freedom to independently overcome these or fail through trial and error or experimentation
- are risk-takers
- express their theories of the world and these are honoured in the environment
- reflect on their actions and self-regulate.

What is the Adult/facilitator doing?

Adult/facilitator:

- is a careful and responsive observer (but not too helpful!)
- strives to position students as actors and authors of their own learning
- ensures opportunities for student voice to be heard and to influence the flow of events
- negotiates with students to overcome tensions around control and agency, striving for balance
- creates opportunities for students' interests and experiences to be built into learning
- provides freedom and choice that enables students to exercise their agency
- supports students to plan, modify and discuss their projects
- responds to students' plans and curates appropriate resources so they can make their plans a reality
- provides the scaffolding required for the construction process
- highlights students making responsible decisions
- models risk-taking behaviour
- provides resources that will support and stimulate
- engages in "play" and "stories" with students
- provides authentic learning challenges and tasks
- collaborates with students, parents and other teachers on learning
- documents and celebrates learning with students
- looks for ways to strengthen the relationships learners have with those around them and the environment
- supports a growth (rather than fixed) mindset.

What's happening in the Environment?

The classroom/physical learning environment:

- provides space for students to demonstrate their learning through their construction
- offers accessibility to promote independence (students can readily access what they need without having to ask for help or permission)
- is flexible and provides options for ways of working depending on student needs or preferences
- celebrates both the process and products of the creative process
- offers a broad range of experiences and perspectives
- promotes collaboration and interaction
- provides evidence of student ownership/ autonomy of their environment and opportunities for responsibility
- supports a growth (rather than fixed) mindset
- promotes awareness of the responsibility of one's own actions in the environment and on others
- is safe - both physically and emotionally.