



Horizons In Learning, Inc
Dynamic Transformation Strategies

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Presenter: Constant E. Hine

**Responsive Instructional Strategies:
Facilitating Investigations and Open-Ended Play**

10 hour Seminar

This hands-on professional learning seminar is designed to strengthen investigation-based facilitation strategies of early childhood practitioners to in turn, promote inquiry, curiosity, critical thinking and STEM experiences in young children during open-ended investigations and play.

Participants will have the opportunity to “get down” and play with intriguing, thoughtfully designed materials that foster critical thinking, design thinking and problem solving. We will model for the participants how they can help children explore the sensory and physical attributes and uses of open-ended materials and how this extends high quality mature play for children indoors and outdoors.

Participants will also learn key investigation-based teaching principles that support children to both individually and collectively investigate materials, create and solve problems, expand language and learn to integrate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) skills intentionally through open-ended play opportunities.

They will explore how to intentionally follow learner-initiated investigations, to provide meaningful and responsive teacher-initiated provocations and challenges, to embrace mistakes and failures as opportunities and part of the design thinking process we want children to use during their investigations.

Participants will learn and practice intentional adult child interaction skills that are aligned with and strengthen the following CLASS domains and dimensions.

- Emotional Support – Regard for student perspective and deepening teacher sensitivity and ability to respectfully respond when interacting with children.
- Classroom Organization – Instructional Learning Formats:
 - responsive non-verbal and verbal facilitation,
 - effective questioning,
 - ‘Followership’ strategies, including responsive observational skills, listening and witnessing children’s activities
- Instructional Support –

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- Concept Development: using investigations to facilitate analysis and reasoning, using the Design Process to foster problem solving, and how to integrate STEM skills through play.
- Quality of Feedback & Language Modeling: how to have responsive conversation, dialogue to support children's ability to explain and demonstrate their thinking and how to provide meaningful provocations to broaden and deepen children's executive functioning and skills.

Learning Objectives:

Participants will:

1. Play with intriguing open-ended materials, explore material properties of these items, and use the materials to solve problems and address specific provocations.
2. Learn specific Investigation-Based Teaching Practices, including practical strategies for learning approaches, environment and adult-child interaction strategies.
3. Examine, reflect and discuss their own beliefs, mindset and habits about mistakes, failures and constraints and how these impact their facilitation of children's open-ended investigations and play.
4. Explore the importance of focusing on and documenting the process of children's investigations in addition to the outcomes or results of their investigations to expand children's STEM explorations and skills.
5. Learn and practice non-verbal & verbal strategies to facilitate investigation and deepen children's critical thinking, problem solving through open ended play and investigations.