

DIGNITY & DISABILITY VALUING CHILDREN'S INTERESTS



Asking children about themselves and incorporating their interests shows respect and fosters positive relationships.

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GETTING TO KNOW CHILDREN

Children with disabilities have interests, likes and dislikes, and values that make them who they are. It is important to find out and support individual interests to develop a positive self-identity.



Asking about individual interests builds rapport, fosters a positive relationship, and allows you to incorporate their interests into activities. When possible, ask children directly or observe them.

ASK CHILDREN ABOUT THEMSELVES

Ask children questions to get to know
them and support a positive self-identity.

ASK:

what they feel they
are good at

what name they want to
be called (ex: nickname)

what they like to do

how they want people to
refer to their disability (ex:
person vs disability first)

what they feel they need
more support doing

what they want to be
when they grow up

what pronouns they use

INCORPORATE CHILDREN'S INTERESTS

Incorporating individual interests into activities increases motivation and shows the child that you value their input.

ASK:

what they want their
reinforcers to be

what peers
they like to
work with



where they
prefer to
complete work

what their favorite and
least favorite things to
learn are

how they feel about
interventions they are
receiving

RESOURCES

Having Appropriate Expectations
for Children

Basic Guidelines for Interacting
with People with Disabilities

Tips for a Welcoming, Inclusive Classroom