

Ingredients of active learning (HighScope approach)

Active learning has five ingredients which must be present:

Materials: Abundant supplies **of interesting materials** are **readily available** to children. Materials are **appealing to all the senses** and are **open ended** — that is, they lend themselves to being used in a variety of ways to expand children’s experiences and stimulate their thought.

Manipulation: Children handle, examine, combine, and transform materials and ideas. They make discoveries through direct hands-on and “minds-on” contact with these resources.

Choice: Children choose materials and play partners, change and build on their play ideas, and plan activities according to their interests and needs.

Child communication, language and thought: Children describe what they are doing and understanding. They communicate verbally and nonverbally as they think about their actions and modify their thinking to take new learning into account.

Adult scaffolding: “Scaffolding” means adults both **support** children’s current level of thinking and **challenge** them. Adults encourage children’s efforts and help them extend or build on their work by talking with them about what they are doing, by joining in their play, and by helping them learn to solve problems that arise.

Ingredient	Observations/Comments	Questions?
Materials		
Manipulation		

Ingredient	Observations/Comments	Questions?
Choice		
Communication		
Scaffolding		

Strengths:

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Possible aspects for development:

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