

INCLUSION STRATEGIES & TOOLS

INTENTIONALITY

Intentionality means being thoughtful and purposeful in your actions and decisions throughout the day. It's about planning ahead, being responsive in the moment, and creating meaningful learning experiences for every child.



Purposeful Play Spaces

Calm, Flexible & Defined



Support Transitions & Routines

Songs & Small Group Activities



Extend Children's Interests

Foster Meaningful Learning Moments



Use Clear, Respectful Language

"Next, we're going to..."

Everything is a teachable moment.

WHY IT MATTERS

Supports Learning: Helps children go deeper in their thinking and play.

Promotes Inclusion: Meets the unique needs of each child.

Builds Trust: Strengthens relationships through responsive, respectful interactions.

Guides Planning: Observation and reflection help you decide next steps.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Intentionality is a strategy that can be practiced throughout the day. Some examples include:

Area	Intentional Practice
Environment	Set up calm, inviting spaces with materials that support exploration.
Play Support	Join play to engage, connect, model problem-solving, or expand on ideas.
Interactions	Ask open-ended questions like “What do you notice?”
Planning	Build on children’s interests (e.g., exploring, bugs or building).
Documentation	Make learning visible and connect it to How Does Learning Happen?

HOW TO BE MORE INTENTIONAL

1. Be Present – Slow down. Observe and listen before you act.
2. Use the Whole Day – Treat every routine as a chance to connect and learn (e.g., handwashing, snack, etc.).
3. Plan with Purpose – Think about what children need today and choose materials and words carefully.
4. Follow Interests – Notice what excites children and build on it.
5. Support Transitions – Use songs, visuals, and friendly voices to guide children through routines.
6. Reflect Often – Ask yourself: What worked today? What didn’t? What can I adjust tomorrow?
7. Ask Thoughtful Questions – Encourage thinking with prompts like “How could we solve this?”
8. Work With Families – Collaborate with children and families to deepen connections. What matters to them?
9. Document and Plan – Follow this cycle:
Observe → Plan → Implement → Document → Reflect → Observe again

CONSIDERATIONS

- Intentionality isn’t about perfection. It’s about staying curious, thoughtful, and responsive.
- Let each moment be a chance to support connection, learning, and growth.