

# Interest-Based Child Learning Checklist

Melinda Raab and Carl J. Dunst

This checklist includes types of practices that can be used to promote interest-based child learning. The practices involve identifying a child's interests, selecting interest-based everyday child learning activities, providing a child opportunities to participate in the activities, and supporting and encouraging child engagement and behavior elaborations in the activities.

The checklist can be used to increase your understanding and use of the interest-based child learning practices. It also can be used to plan or to help a parent plan how to support and encourage interest-based child learning in everyday activities. Finally, the checklist can be used to do a self-evaluation examining the extent to which you are able to do the practices or to have a colleague or coach provide feedback on your use of the practices.

Practitioner: \_\_\_\_\_ Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Which practice characteristics were you able to use?

YES

NO

Notes

1. Identify the objects, people, activities, and actions that **capture and hold the child's attention**
2. Identify the objects, people, events, and activities that the child **prefers**, are the child's **favorite things to do**, and make the child **smile and laugh**
3. Identify the actions and behaviors that the child **enjoys** doing, **chooses to do**, **does most often**, or **works hard at doing**
4. Identify the everyday activities, events, and experiences that do or could provide the child **opportunities for interest-based participation**
5. Provide the child **many opportunities to participate** in the interest-based activities
6. Increase the **number and variety** of everyday activities providing interest-based child learning opportunities
7. **Pay attention to when and how** the child interacts with objects or people in the activities and **follow the child's lead**
8. **Support the child's engagement** in the activities by **responding promptly and positively** to child-initiated behavior
9. Respond to child behavior in the activities in ways that encourage the child to **use new and increasingly complex behavior**