



Learning to Teach

Part Three: Early Childhood Materials and Environment

PART THREE

Open-ended materials are the ‘texts’ of the early childhood classroom, providing limitless opportunities for children to create, engage, represent, and imagine. Scenes in this series show children working with a range of materials in an environment designed to support their growth:

Playing Alone | 0:59

How do we understand a situation where a child plays alone? In the first scene, we focus on a child playing by herself.

Open-Ended Materials | 6:37

Paper, scissors, crayons. These are some of the open ended materials you will find in an early childhood classroom. We’ll look at what the children do with these materials and with each other.

Around the Sand Table | 10:26

This interaction at the sand table helps us understand how another open ended material gives children so much to work with. There’s a lot going on! Pay attention to the language children use.



Learning to Teach, Part 3

16 minutes



Prior to each video clip, a Bank Street graduate faculty member introduces the situation, shows the video, and then engages novice teachers in a discussion. Viewers can engage in a similar process: watch, consider, and discuss. Then join the graduate student panel as they puzzle out what they saw and try to make sense of the children and the teaching situation as well as themselves as early childhood teachers.