This learning guide is designed for use by teachers, school and district administrators, Professional Learning Communities, learning coaches, parents and community members to enhance and support promising practice in the area of Early Learning to Grade 3.

This learning guide is intended to be used after viewing the video clip Neuroscience and Emergent Curriculum:

General synopsis: *In this video clip, Dr. Sergio Pellis and several leading Early Childhood teachers and administrators share the importance of learning through play, emergent curriculum and the changing role of early childhood professionals.*

Key Understandings

- *Early experiences shape brain development and have lifelong effects.*
- *Emergent Curriculum is a process which involves observing children's interests, following their lead and creating rich experiences which scaffold learning and development to the next level.*
- *The teacher, as a responsive facilitator of learning, uses knowledge of child development to plan experiences that engage children in meaningful play while fostering development in all domains.*
- *Play contributes to healthy brain development, is the appropriate way for children to learn and is an integral part of Early Learning to Grade 3 practice.*
- *The Primary Programs Framework has been developed to inform practice from Early Learning to Grade 3, encouraging responsive practices that allow diverse learners to make meaningful connections.*
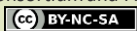
Questions for Discussion

- Describe an ideal learning environment that would support play-based learning and total child development. Why is play-based programming crucial to children's future success?

- Dr. Pellis talks about the importance of allowing children to lead. Share examples of experiences that could be provided for children to lead.
- How might you be more intentional in planning and implementing programming that supports Emergent Curriculum? Consider opportunities that may provide for meaningful engagement that meets student needs while following their interests.
- Share your understanding of the Primary Programs Framework and how it influences program planning and implementation from Early Learning to Grade 3.
- How has this video challenged or affirmed your beliefs about Early Learning to Grade 3 programming? How will it impact your practice?

For more information

- **Primary Programs Framework documents**
  http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/ecs/ppp.aspx
- **ATA Early Childhood Education Council position paper- Teaching and Learning K-3**
  http://ecec.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/ECEC.teachers.ab.ca/Position%20Papers/positionpaper02.pdf
- **Canadian Association for Young Children**
  http://cayc.ca/philosophy/
- **Council of Ministers of Education Canada**
  http://cmec.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/282/play-based-learning_statement_EN.pdf

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