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 Early Learning Environments

General synopsis: *In this video clip, Dr. Robbin Gibb and several leading Early Childhood teachers and administrators share the importance of responsive environments, universal supports and the development of trusting relationships for future success.*

Key Understandings

- *Children's early experiences influence social, physical, intellectual, creative, cultural and emotional development.*
- *Universal environments which are caring, safe and inclusive enhance development when adults are responsive to scaffolding and supporting each individual's development in all domains.*
- *Environments that enhance brain development imbed research based, developmentally appropriate practices and universal supports to ensure success for all.*
- *Children bring unique existing understandings, capabilities, attitudes and dispositions to the learning environment.*
- *The teacher builds upon children's prior knowledge and experiences and develops supportive, respectful connections with each child and their families.*
- *Responsive early experiences with adults and peers have lifelong impacts on children.*

Questions for Discussion

- Early learning programs to Grade 3, must be responsive to accepting, respecting and valuing each child at their individual level of development. How will you encourage a culture of acceptance and celebration of diversity and inclusion?

- What are some of the promising practices that create rich relationships with individual children and their families?
- Ensuring all adults are aware of and support best practices requires a collaborative approach. Who should be involved and how will a collaborative approach be reflected in your program?
- Given your context, identify areas of strength and opportunities for growth when designing a universally responsive, inclusive environment for learning.

For more information

- **Galileo Educational Network- Early Learning- Early Grades (K-4)**
  http://www.galileonetwork.ca/earlylearning/
- **The Balanced Literacy Diet: Putting Research Into Practice in the Classroom**
  http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/balancedliteracydiet/Home/index.html
- **Raising Children**
  http://www.programs.alberta.ca/Living/14773.aspx?Ns=14530&N=770
- **The Hanen Center- Helping You Help Children Communicate**
  http://www.hanen.org/Home.aspx

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