

CNMI BRAIN BUILDERS NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2023 | ISSUE 04

April
at a
GLANCE



CONGRATULATIONS!

The CNMI Brain Builders Team is proud to announce that a total of 5 parents from Gana Daycare and the community, completed a training series on Mind in the Making (MITM) last April 8th. This training was facilitated by Ms. Rayanna Fitial, Science of Early Learning Administrative Assistant.

On March 25th, Child Care Providers Cohort 5 successfully completed the Mind in the Making training series. This was facilitated by Ms. Nerine Villagomez, Evergreen Learning's Technical Assistance Specialist.



CONGRATULATIONS!



CNMI Brain Builders Team also warmly welcomes Child Care Providers Cohort 6 of Mind in the Making. They completed the Introductory Module last April 15, 2023.



"All children in the CNMI will be safe, healthy, and thriving members of a culturally diverse community. Their families will have access to the high quality supports they need to achieve their potential."



**CNMI BRAIN
BUILDERS**

MIND IN THE MAKING: THE 7 ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS

LIFE SKILL OF THE MONTH

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Promoting Making Connections

Everyday Routines

While getting dressed, invite children to select two pieces of clothing and figure out all the ways they are the same and all the ways they are different.

Playful Learning Activities

Write down children's words as they say them so they see the connection between what they say and written words.

Learning Strategies

Encourage children to think about why they made a mistake and what they can learn from it. This helps them reflect on the connections they are making in learning.



THE LIFE SKILL OF MAKING CONNECTIONS

The Life Skill of Making Connections is central to learning. The ability to make connections underlies the ability to see that symbols—such as numbers, letters and words—stand for real objects (symbolic representation). Making Connection involves executive function skills, including drawing on what you know (working memory) figuring out what's the same and what's different (cognitive flexibility) and sorting these things into categories (inhibitory control).

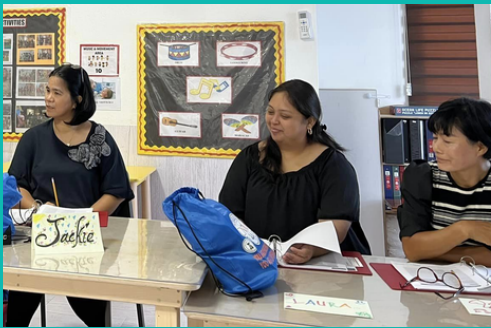


All children and adults can benefit from improving their capacity to make usual and unusual connections—a core component of creativity.

THE LIFE SKILL OF MAKING CONNECTIONS



Past Event Photos



Playing with Household Items

According to Alison Gopnik of the University of California at Berkeley:

“Children are using the same kinds of processes as scientists. They’re making up theories about what’s going on around them; they’re checking to see if those theories fit what they see and what other people are telling them. And they’re testing those theories by asking questions and making predictions. You can see this in their play.”

Much like kids who are more fascinated by boxes than by the toys that came in them, young children often prefer household objects to many commercial toys. Here’s why:

- Household objects are what’s called “open ended,” meaning they can be used in many different ways, whereas many commercial toys are limited in their use (you turn them off or on, etc.). Even toys that children most prefer over long periods of time are open-ended, such as blocks or other building materials, small cars or trucks, little animals or people and drawing materials.
- Household objects represent the adult world and children are trying to figure out the adult world.
- Household objects give kids a chance to test their ideas about how things work. For example, when your child drops a spoon from the highchair, she might be testing out the many ways the spoon can fall, the different sounds it makes and the greater mess it creates.

Here are some things your child can do with household objects:

- An empty shampoo bottle can become a pretend spaceship or boat in the bathtub.
- A plastic bottle with things inside can become a musical instrument.
- A pot with a wooden spoon can also become a musical instrument.
- An empty cardboard box can become a hiding place for your child or for playing, “Where are my socks? There they are!”

Play doesn’t need to be expensive! What matters is that the things your baby plays with promote your child’s imagination and learning.



LEARN MORE AT WWW.MINDINTHEMAKING.ORG

**Featured Researcher:
Judy S. DeLoache Ph.D.**



**Professor
Co-Director, UW
Institute for
Learning and
Brain Sciences**

"There's nothing that sets human beings apart from any other species on the planet more than our symbolic capacity. If you think about what you know about the world, a vast proportion of what you know comes through symbolic representation."

Good Night Song

Ages 0-2



As you get your child ready for sleep, talk softly about what you see. "I see your ears. Good night ears. I see your eyes. Good night eyes." If they make sounds (like Ba Ba), repeat them ("Good Night Ba Ba") to create your own good night song.

See what your child is learning

Brainy Background

Not only is this a ritual that helps your child calm down before sleep, it is a conversation. When you repeat their sounds, they learn they're listened to and what it means to have a conversation. These are key skills in learning how to communicate.

For more activities like these, check out the free Vroom mobile app!



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**#vroomtip
of the
month**

Congratulations to the winners of CNMI Brain Builders March Contest!



Amaleene Ramos



Rowena Villadolid
Coloma



Evangeline Rosalita



Yrine Angeles

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