**Strategies that Promote:**

**Creativity**
- Have children brainstorm lists of needed supplies or materials for a project
- Provide materials for children to create own props for dramatic play
- Open-ended play opportunities and props
- Support children in following through on own ideas
- Sing a familiar song, allow children to share ideas for new lyrics
- Encourage children to develop different uses for familiar objects
- Provide blank paper and mixed media for art
- Invite children to create their own ending to a story
- Whenever possible, honor children’s unique ideas; don’t require conformity

**Inquiry**
- Follow children’s lead, be responsive to their questions
- Provide opportunities for children to explore
- Give access to highly engaging materials
- Encourage children to ask questions
- Don’t always provide the answers, explore ideas with children
- Provide blocks of time for play that are sufficient to allow children to make choices and explore deeply

**Flexibility**
- Provide a consistent daily schedule
- Be available as a base of support
- Start with the familiar, add novelty and complexity over time
- Rotate some materials while maintaining some familiar and most popular
- Once a child is comfortable, and with warning, provide a change in the schedule
- Follow the child’s lead, model flexibility and capitalize on teachable moments
- Allow children to combine unrelated materials in play
- Allow children to use materials in unusual ways

**Critical Thinking**

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• Identify children’s current understandings and address misconceptions
• Use KWL charts and create webs with children
• Build upon prior knowledge
• Help children make connections between new ideas and own experiences
• Ask children to describe their thinking (“Why do you think so?”)
• Engage children in real problem solving
• Expose children to various viewpoints (Read multiple versions of stories)
• Use higher-order thinking framework (Bloom’s Taxonomy) when planning experiences

Planning and Reflection
• Use Choice Boards
• Have children plan for where they are going to play each day
• Engage children in planning for dramatic play centers
• Have children draw or sketch what they plan to do and represent their ideas in writing
• Take pictures of children’s work in progress and throughout their process
• Show slide shows of pictures of classroom activities and allow children to discuss as they view
• Allow structures to remain intact (e.g., blocks) and for children to return and add to another day
• Have children share their ideas, creations, learning with peers as a review
• Meet as a group and review learning at the end of the day
• Engage children in long-term projects and discuss the process throughout the experience
• Take video of children engaged in learning and play then view with them afterwards and reflect

Social Learning
• Think-Pair-Share
• Partner children up to complete tasks
• Encourage children to help each other
• Encourage peer-to-peer interactions and conversations
• Cooperative Learning in small groups
• Cooperative Games – both indoors and outdoors
• Social Mealtimes