

USING YOUR Play Personality Type IN THE ECE CLASSROOM

1. THE COLLECTOR

Bring in thrift store finds or collections of items, known as “loose parts”. Anything can be a toy, so look for kitchen items like pots, pans, scoops and tongs, baskets, wooden photo frames, shells or rocks, or other interesting, open-ended materials.



2. THE COMPETITOR

When it's time to clean up, see who can pick up and put away the most toys, or have the children work as a group to “beat the song”, having a dance party for the remainder of the song.



3. THE CREATOR/ARTIST

Consider how you can bring art and creating into other areas of your room, including outside. Provide hands-on activities in the science and math centers, add a garden to your outdoor play space, create STEM activities by bringing in objects that the children can tinker with and work to repair, or make up new songs.



4. THE DIRECTOR

Set up “play invitations” which encourage children feel inspired to explore, create, and play. It's the best of both worlds – the director gets to do what they do best, plan and execute, and the child gets to choose if and how they play.



5. THE EXPLORER

Embark on nature scavenger hunts to discover new places or objects, bring in new music or art, or ask the children to bring in an object that is meaningful to them so you can learn more about your students.



6. THE JOKER

Initiate silly games and songs, which are especially great during transitions. Comfort children using smiles and laughter. As early childhood educators, being silly with the children is one of the greatest joys!



7. THE KINESTHETE

Children need to move to learn, so this type is perfect in an ECE classroom. Incorporate movement into every part of your day, from dancing during morning meeting to yoga before naptime.



8. THE STORYTELLER

Create engaging stories throughout your day, especially during the most mundane tasks. Cleaning up can become a “battle against clutter”. Ask the children to help you act out their favorite books. Help children express their feelings when they aren't sure how.

