










## Cognitive Development

The VLS Core Content was designed to align across tracks which means a significant portion of each track's content is relevant for all direct care staff. This document identifies unique age-specific content, activities, and resources by lesson and can be used as a guide for review material if a staff member moves to care for a new age-group. For example, direct care staff who move from an infant and toddler to a preschool classroom should consult the Preschool track to be aware of age-specific material that resides in that track. Use this document as a guide and remember to work with your trainer to help identify content areas in the VLS where you may need extra review and support to be knowledgeable about best practices for all children in your care.

### LESSON 1

Infants & Toddlers	Preschool	School Age
Cognitive Development: An Introduction	Cognitive Development: An Introduction	Cognitive Development: An Introduction
  	  	  
1. <b>Video:</b> <i>You Make a Difference</i>	1. <b>Video:</b> <i>Cognitive Development: You Make a Difference</i>	1. <b>Video:</b> <i>Cognitive Development: You Make a Difference</i>
2. <b>Bulleted List:</b> List of strategies to support cognitive development in ITs	2. <b>Bulleted List:</b> Strategies to support cognitive development in PS	2. <b>Bulleted List:</b> Strategies to support cognitive development in SA
3. <i>Resources on the Developing Brain</i>	3. <b>Attachment:</b> <i>Myth or Fact?</i>	3. <b>Attachment:</b> <i>Myth or Fact?</i>

## LESSON 2

### Infants & Toddlers

Cognitive Development:  
Infants and Toddlers

**\*Consult Entire Lesson:**

If you are moving to this track and you have already covered this course in another VLS track, you should still consult this lesson in its entirety because it contains significant, unique content specific to infants and toddlers.

### Preschool

Cognitive Development:  
Preschool

**\*Consult Entire Lesson:**

If you are moving to this track and you have already covered this course in another VLS track, you should still consult this lesson in its entirety because it contains significant, unique content specific to preschool children.

### School Age

Cognitive Development:  
School Age

**\*Consult Entire Lesson:**

If you are moving to this track and you have already covered this course in another VLS track, you should still consult this lesson in its entirety because it contains significant, unique content specific to school-age children.

## LESSON 3

### Infants & Toddlers

Supporting Cognitive Development:  
Interactions



1. **Section:** *The Importance of Secure Attachments*
2. **Section:** *Relationships Across the Age Groups*
3. **Section:** *Interactions Support Learning*
4. **Section:** *Verbal Interaction*
5. **Section:** *Physical Interactions*



6. **Video:** *Supporting Cognitive Development: Interactions*



7. **Bulleted List:** Actions to promote IT cognitive development



8. **Attachment:** *Interactions: A Reflective Exercise*

### Preschool

Supporting Cognitive Development:  
Interactions



1. **Section:** *Interactions Support Learning*
2. **Section:** *Verbal Interactions: Supporting Learning through Communication*
3. **Section:** *Playing to Learn: Physical Interactions*



4. **Video:** *Supporting Cognitive Development: Interactions*
5. **Video:** *Noticing Opportunities to Support Cognitive Development*



6. **Bulleted List:** Ways to interact with children that might lead to teachable moments



7. **Attachment:** *Reflecting on Interactions & Learning*

### School Age

Supporting Cognitive Development:  
Interactions



1. **Section:** *Interactions Support Learning*
2. **Section:** *Interactions with Adults*
3. **Section:** *Interactions with Peers*



4. **Video:** *Supporting Cognitive Development: Interactions*



5. **Attachment:** *Reflecting on Interactions that Support Learning*

## LESSON 4

### Infants & Toddlers

Supporting Cognitive Development:  
Environments and Materials



1. **Section:** *Environments and Materials that Promote Infants' and Toddlers' Cognitive Development*
2. **Section:** *Accessibility of Learning Materials*



3. **Video:** *Infant Block Play*
4. **Video:** *The Band*



5. **Bulleted List:** Strategies to utilize the environment to support cognitive development
- 6.

*Bulleted List: Choosing Materials for Cognitive*



7. **Attachment:** *Learning Materials for Cognitive Development*



8. **Attachment:** *Learning Materials Reflective Exercise*

### Preschool

Supporting Cognitive Development:  
Environments and Materials



1. **Section:** *Environments and Materials that Promote Preschooler's Cognitive Development*
2. *Section: Features of Classroom Environments that Promote Young Children's Cognitive Development*
3. **Section:** *Promoting Exploration and Discovery in Preschool*
4. *Section: Environments and Materials that Address the Needs of ALL Learners*



5. **Video:** *Explorations in Preschool*
6. *Video: Modeling Curiosity*



7. **Bulleted List:** *Choosing Materials for Cognitive Development*



8. **Attachment:** *Culture and Children's Literature*



9. **Attachment:** *Materials that Spark Exploration*
10. **Attachment:** *Resources for Your Classroom*

### School Age

Supporting Cognitive Development:  
Environments and Materials



1. *Section: Environments and Materials that Promote School-Age Children's Cognitive Development*
2. **Section:** *Promoting Exploration and Discovery in your School-Age Program*
3. **Section:** *Exploration and Problem Solving through Scientific Inquiry and Experiments*
4. **Section:** *Including ALL School-Age Children in Learning Activities*



5. **Video:** *Promoting Exploration and Discovery*



6. **Bulleted List:** Strategies to use in school-age environments



7. **Attachment:** *Culture and School-Age Children's Literature*



8. **Attachment:** *Resources for Your School-Age Program*

9. **Attachment:** *Curriculum Supports for ALL Children*

## LESSON 5

### Infants & Toddlers

Supporting Cognitive Development:  
Experiences and Activities

**\*Consult Entire Lesson:**

If you are moving to this track and you have already covered this course in another VLS track, you should still consult this lesson in its entirety because it contains significant, unique content specific to infants and toddlers.

### Preschool

Supporting Cognitive Development:  
Environments and Materials

**\*Consult Entire Lesson:**

If you are moving to this track and you have already covered this course in another VLS track, you should still consult this lesson in its entirety because it contains significant, unique content specific to preschool children.

### School Age

Supporting Cognitive Development:  
Environments and Materials

**\*Consult Entire Lesson:**

If you are moving to this track and you have already covered this course in another VLS track, you should still consult this lesson in its entirety because it contains significant, unique content specific to school-age children.