Teachable Moments

(Please use the following outline to direct your research on the topic that you missed.)

*Contact the trainer in regard to handouts associated with this topic.*

Children’s natural curiosity and need-to-know creates many opportunities for teachable moments. It is important to develop a teaching perspective that will assure we not miss out on unexpected learning opportunities. Along with recognizing a teachable moment is knowing when a child is ready to take something he/she is trying to do to the next level.

**Main Topic #1: Defining Teachable Moments**

*Every day, “teachable moments” provide opportunities to teach life skills, such as problem-solving, social-relationship skills and decision making. A teachable moment is an unplanned event during the day that adults can use as a learning opportunity for children.***

- Give an example for each of the following skills when an unplanned activity might help the child extend or expand their learning.
  - Planning:
  - Flexibility:
  - Experimenting:
  - Suggesting:
Teachable moments are important for children because they provide meaningful contexts to introduce or expand on something you want the children to learn. These “moments” can be used to open conversations with children to find out what they are thinking about.

- The following clips offer good examples of adults using teachable moments through the day in everyday activities.

“Born Learning - Teachable Moments” [3:52]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CbZFq8JodI

Main Topic #2: How to Utilize Teachable Moments

A provider identifies teachable moments by observing and listening to children, following their leads and looking for interesting occurrences. Listening and observing the child’s behavior is very important. By listening and asking open-ended questions about what they are doing, you are encouraging them to stay engaged and gives insight into what the child is learning.

- Describe a scenario in which a caregiver could capitalize on a teachable moment. What is the child doing? Saying? What might the caregiver say? Questions to ask? What does the “moment” tell you about the child?
Main Topic #3: Your Role as a Child Care Provider

Rather than think of your job as presenting lessons on a topic or theme, it is best to look at your role in terms of discovering the curriculum themes the children are already exploring. We do this by observing and listening and then coordinating the environment and providing the materials that the children need to continue their learning of a topic they are already exploring.

- Part of this process involves asking open-ended questions. Research and describe the difference between open-ended and closed questions. List five examples of each kind of question.