

Module 8.1

PURPOSE for Students



TAKE IT DEEPER: 1 of 2

Guiding Questions for Exploring Purpose in the Classroom

The [Siemens Child Development Center](#) in Wilsonville, Oregon created these five guiding statements when approaching and exploring purpose with their students (0–5 years old) and families. Although developed for young children, most of these questions remain relevant for all ages of students. Some of these questions can be posed directly to students (particularly older ones), while others can be helpful for you as you design learning opportunities. For example, you don't need to explicitly pose the question "What opportunities do mistakes offer?"— instead, when a mistake occurs in the classroom, you can open a discussion like "What did you learn? What might you do differently next time?"

Take a moment to read through the statements and associated questions. Circle any questions that resonate with you or stand as good launching pads for a discussion around meaning and purpose and/or for helping to integrate purpose into your curriculum and pedagogy. In the space below/on next page, can you reflect on some connections you draw between these questions and fostering students' sense of purpose? What are some ways to use these statements in a discussion or activity with your students?

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TAKE IT DEEPER: 2 of 2

Guiding Questions for Exploring Purpose in the Classroom

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I am an evolving individual

Who am I? What does it mean to be an individual?
What do I value about myself? What is unique about me?
What does it mean to be authentically myself?
How do I safely take risks and embrace mistakes as I change and grow?
What opportunities do mistakes offer? How do I embrace my capabilities and talents? How do I realize my power for positive change?

I am a contributing member of a community

What does it mean to be a member of a community?
What are my rights and responsibilities as a member of this community?
How are respectful, responsive, reciprocal communities nurtured?
How can I contribute meaningfully to my community?

I am a creator of ideas and questions

What role does creativity play in thinking and learning?
How are doing and learning interconnected?
What roles do observation, attention, and persistence play in learning?
How does play support me in developing ideas, theories, and questions?
What materials will support my thinking?

I am a communicator

How do I effectively share my ideas/needs/questions with others?
What material/ 'language' will best express my ideas and questions?
How do I respectfully advocate for myself and others?
What does it mean to 'listen' with all your senses?
What role do joy and humor play in being a competent communicator?
What does responsive and reciprocal communication look and feel like?

I am a steward of my environment

What are my rights and responsibilities in regards to the world outside myself? To the natural world?
What role does the outdoors play in supporting my personal growth and well-being? How do I acknowledge the interdependence of all living things? How do I foster health in myself and others?
What impact do appreciation and aesthetics have on our ability to act respectfully and mindfully?
How do I realize my power for positive change?
What does it mean to live sustainably?

