

# DIVING INTO CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Teaching with CLASS® Podcast

Season 4 Episode 5

Guest: Maria Cristina Caro



## + Concept Development vs. Memorization

Concept development in early childhood education is not about teaching children to memorize facts and concepts. Instead, it involves fostering critical thinking and higher-order cognitive skills. Teachers should encourage children to question "why" and "how" to deepen their understanding.

## + Prepare to go Scuba Diving

Maria Cristina Caro uses a powerful analogy to explain concept development. She compares teaching children to swim (memorizing facts) to teaching them to scuba dive (understanding the purpose and application of concepts). Scuba diving requires preparation, planning, and deeper exploration, just like concept development.

## + Creating Meaningful Learning Opportunities

Concept development can happen throughout the day, not just during structured circle time. Educators can seize everyday moments to engage children's curiosity and critical thinking. Asking open-ended questions and encouraging discussions help children make connections and apply knowledge to real-world situations.

## + Intentional Planning and High-Order Thinking

When planning concept development activities, educators should be intentional and purposeful. The goal is to encourage children to use higher-order thinking skills, such as analysis, reasoning, problem-solving, and creativity. Learning should go beyond memorization to practical application.

## + Inclusivity and Individualization

Educators should ensure that all children, including those from diverse cultural backgrounds, children with disabilities, and those who speak multiple languages, are included in concept development activities. Individualized support may be necessary to cater to the unique needs of each child and create an inclusive learning environment.

Remember that concept development lays the foundation for lifelong learning and critical thinking skills. By nurturing children's curiosity and encouraging them to explore and question, educators empower them to become independent thinkers and problem solvers.

To listen to this episode and read the transcript, visit <https://info.teachstone.com/blog/diving-into-concept-development>

