# Discoveries of Infancy

## Opening Activity

**Duration**: 10 minutes

**Intention:** To help participants begin to think about the child's active role in cognitive development and learning.

Prior to the session write the following on a flip chart or white board:

**Reflect upon and write down your own definition of discovery**

As participants enter the session encourage them to follow the instructions.

1. After everyone seems to complete the task, introduce yourself, the topic of the session, and any other necessary introductory tasks.

2. Ask participants to share their definitions with the larger group.

3. As people share their definitions write them on a board or flip chart so all participants can see them. If you feel like some key element of discovery missing, add your own definition to round out.

4. After you have several definitions, read them to the group. Often definitions include many action words like: To explore, to learn, to find something new, to make your own, etc.

5. Use a different colored pen to underline each of the action words. Read out the action words and describe how the child is the active agent in the learning process. People may have comments or questions.

6. Wrap up the activity by telling participants that this activity sets the tone for the session that the child is an active, self motivated learner, and that the adult role is to facilitate and support infant toddler cognitive learning and development, through interaction and through the arrangement of the environment and materials.

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