

What is

# The Project Approach

The Project Approach is a method in which the teacher identifies a topic of potentially high interest to the children in the class and facilitates an in-depth study of the topic through firsthand investigation and research.

Three phases provide a framework for this inquiry-based approach:

## 1 Phase One

Teachers introduce the topic and provide the children with opportunities to share what they already know about it through activities such as storytelling, dramatic plays, and drawing. Teachers identify aspects of the topics that the children are curious to learn more about.

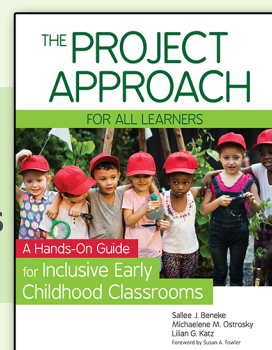
## 2 Phase Two

Teachers provide the children with activities that allow them to satisfy their curiosity, such as interviews with guest experts, field trips, experiments, and examinations of artifacts.

## 3 Phase Three

Teachers provide opportunities for children to reflect on and share what they have learned and experienced during their research and investigations.

Project work can be incorporated into an existing curriculum, although it does not typically constitute the entire curriculum. The Project Approach supports the abilities of *all* children, enabling them to use their strengths to build new knowledge and skills.



Adapted from *The Project Approach for All Learners: A Hands-On Guide for Inclusive Early Childhood Classrooms* by Sallee J. Beneke, Ph.D., Michaelene M. Ostrosky, Ph.D., & Lilian G. Katz, Ph.D., © 2019 Brookes Publishing Co. All rights reserved.