

Activity: Turn a question into a comment

Pair up and review the following- be prepared to explain and share your thoughts

Too many questions puts strain and stress onto a child as they play or work at a time when we just want to engage or find out what they know or think. This is not how we engage with other adults. Questions are used sparingly- to find out details omitted from a **natural conversation**.

Example:

Adult 1: My kids are coming home for the weekend. It'll be great to see them.

Adult 2: Oh, I bet! That'll be nice for you. How long has it been since they were home?

The PQA item III-D states: "Adults use a variety of strategies to encourage and support child language and communication." There are many strategies. These include:

- Let children initiate conversations
- Take turns
- Wait patiently for children to form thoughts without interrupting
- Wait for child to speak first
- Remain quiet until child indicates they are done talking
- Converse in a give-and-take manner
- Comment, acknowledge and seek children's ideas
- Ask questions sparingly: make sure they relate directly to what child is doing

Here are some questions often heard in early childhood classrooms. The context/routine time does not matter. **How can they be turned into comments** as part of a 'natural conversation' or interaction- OR- questioned as part of a natural response? What could you do to assure a **natural conversation** occurs? Choose one to practice with:

- What are you making? What will you do next?
- How many/what shape or color/is that? What about this?
- What are you doing?