

Group Times as Learning Times

Questions and comments that continue conversations and deepen learning

- Focus on children's interests and excitement
- Request information you don't already know (i.e. don't ask a question about something to which you already know the answer)
- Match children's language abilities
- Stimulate creative thinking
- Show your interest
- Acknowledge children's efforts and encourage their persistence

Four strategies for developing meaningful questions that will enhance children's learning:

1. Ask children about what they are doing.
~Children become more aware of their actions when they communicate verbally about what they are engaged in.
2. Ask children to provide explanations.
~Asking children why and how questions allow children opportunities to express their thinking process and share their opinions and beliefs.
3. Ask children to make predictions.
~These questions promote higher-level thinking and encourage children to think beyond the here and now and to anticipate what might happen next.
4. Ask children to connect learning to their own lives.
~Making these connections requires complex cognitive skills as children have to think beyond the classroom context and apply their learning to another environment