

Early Childhood Day



To get a better understanding of how a child is thinking, use open-ended questions. Help extend experience and promote meaningful conversations with children by using them throughout the day and at in all areas of the classroom. While teachers should make an effort to engage children in feedback loops, it's also important to take cues from the children themselves. Consider this: "While using open ended questions it is important to really listen to (or watch) the child's response to the questions and see where the conversation might go. Is the child interested in the conversation and ready for more questions or challenges? Or is the child more interested in engaging in play without interruptions?"

-Adapted from One Page Resources: Open Ended Questions, New Mexico Pre K

Objective: Teachers will be prepared to integrate open-ended question techniques into daily practice.



Teachers are being encouraged to offer students more chances to engage in conversation exchanges to develop communication skills. How can you insure that your environment supports these conversations? Start simply...

Set up your schedule

Create opportunities for conversation give and take, being mindful of appropriate timing for such conversation. In some classrooms, Choice, Work or Small Group times may be better for feedback loops than whole group times where children may lose focus.

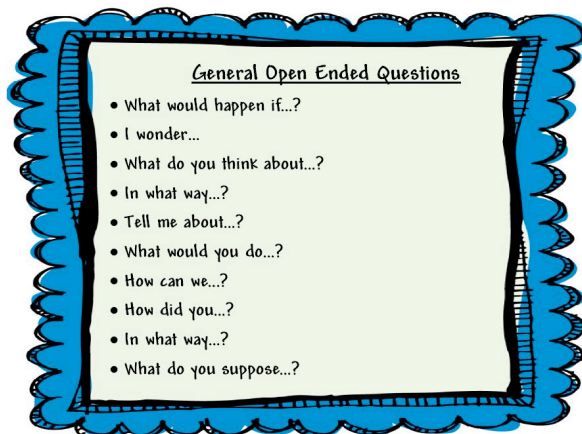
Set up your environment

Create a space where children know you're accessible for conversation. Sitting on a low stool near active areas like Blocks or Dramatic Play invites sharing of ideas during play. You can also set up an area specifically intended for "chats" between teachers and students.



Set up your questions

Create a bank of thought/conversation provoking questions and hang them on a wall where you can easily see them. You can also hang area specific questions in your classroom centers.



Use the links below for sample questions to get you started!

How To Use Open-Ended Questions With Children

<http://storiesandchildren.com/open-ended-questions/>

Open-Ended Questions: Stretching Children's Academic and Social Learning

<https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/article/open-ended-questions>

Why Ask Open-Ended Questions?

<http://journeyintoearlychildhood.weebly.com/1/post/2013/08/open-ended-questions.html>

Teacher Tips: Asking Open-Ended Questions

<http://www.teachstone.com/blog/2013/12/06/teacher-tips-open-ended-questions/>

Developing Listening and Speaking Skills

http://www2.ed.gov/teachers/how/early/teachingouryoungest/page_pg6.html