

Quality Interactions and Communication: *Conversational Prompts*

COMMENTS THAT PROMPT THINKING & CONVERSATION

When we encourage children to tell us more we engage their interests and invite them to elaborate on their ideas. Commenting on children's thoughts, ideas, or their work prompts the child to repeat, respond to, or expand on their thinking and deepen their understanding. The following comments are examples of communications that encourage interaction and conversation with children.

- *Tell me about...*
- *I wonder what...*
- *Say more about that.*
- *Help me understand...*
- *Let's think about...*
- *Tell me what you think about that.*
- *Let's figure it out together. What do we do first? What do we do next?*
- *I noticed you were playing soccer today, tell me about that!*
- *I'm wondering about...*
- *I'm curious about...*
- *Share your thinking/ideas with me.*
- *Let's pretend we're...*

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Look for opportunities to engage with children.

1. Observe where the child is in his/her work/play/thinking.
2. Pay attention to the child's cues (facial expressions, body language) to determine if it is an appropriate time to engage in conversation.
3. Use prompts and questions that are relevant and meaningful to the child in the moment.