

### Quality Interactions and Communication: *Teachable Moments*

Use these ideas and questions to build on what you have learned and extend your practice.

#### THINK ABOUT IT!

##### ■ Self-Reflection

Use these questions to think about your own practice.

##### ■ Reflect with Others

Supervisors, directors, coaches, and teachers/providers can be reflective partners.

##### ■ The Power of Practice

Invite a colleague to join you; observe or record each other and share ideas.

#### REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- How can I grow in my ability to extend children's learning throughout the day?
- What other tasks take up my time during free play, outdoor play, transitions, or routines? What resources or support do I need to better take advantage of teachable moments throughout the day?
- How can I balance supervision of the whole group with opportunities to extend the learning of one child or a small group of children?
- How can I identify the "right" time to intervene and facilitate children's learning? How can I be sure I am not interrupting their play and exploration?

#### TRY IT OUT!

Practice identifying and taking advantage of a teachable moment with one child or a small group of children in your program. Choose **one** of the following times:

Indoor free choice | Outdoor play  
Transitions | Routines

- Spend some time observing a child or small group during this time of day.
- Think about a way to build on the child(ren)'s experiences.
- Identify an appropriate time to step in.
- Extend the child(ren)'s learning. For example, you may ask a question, invite the child(ren) to try out something, or provide the child(ren) with more information.

#### How Did It Go?

After creating a teachable moment, reflect on this practice activity and record your thoughts. What did you notice? What worked and why? What might you try next time?

#### What Next?

Practice again! Try this activity with other children in your program at different times of the day. Share your experiences with your colleagues, and reflect on how you might work together to create teachable moments throughout the day. Use the next pack in this bundle, "Scaffolding," to explore key aspects of effective scaffolding and to learn specific strategies.