

Participation in the Classroom

As an adult participant in the classroom, your primary responsibility is to be actively involved with the children. Active involvement means:

- Support children's play – do not interfere or intrude when children are playing cooperatively and constructively.
- Engage children in conversation when appropriate, answer questions when asked.
- Provide resources and additional materials when needed.
- Support independence and self-help; support children in solving their problems. Try to avoid making models or providing solutions, but do help children solve problems as they arise.
- Ask open-ended questions that invite children to think.
- Encourage children to clean up after themselves and put away material as they finish their work/play.
- Take notes on what you see and hear as you observe. Take photos when appropriate. Be prepared to share what you observed in your area during the day.

Questions that Invite Children to Think

You can use these opening phrases that encourage children to think and expand on their activities:

Tell me about...

What do you think...

Tell me how you did...

I wonder what would happen if....

What do you think you could do with...

Will you tell me more about...

What made you decide to...

How do you think you could...

Can you think of a different way to...

How do you think you can do that? What would you need?

Tell me about the tools you used to do...

How did you...? Tell me about it.

Tell me about what you are doing.