

### Being Responsive to Children and Families: *Responsive Learning Experiences*

Use these ideas and questions to build on what you've 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

- Use these ideas and questions to build on what you've learned and extend your practice.
- How do I usually learn about children's development, interests, culture, and language? What other ways can I learn about children?
- How do I consider children's interests and learning goals when deciding what to explore?
- What materials do I have that can be adapted for children of various developmental levels?
- How do I decide whether to plan an individual activity, small group, or large group?
- How can I strengthen my practice of planning responsive learning experiences?

#### TRY IT OUT!

Identify an interest of a child or group of children in your care. Discuss the children's learning goals you have identified with family members and colleagues.

Plan a responsive learning experience based on the child(ren)'s interests and learning goals.

- What will the child(ren) explore in this learning experience? How does the exploration build off of the child(ren)'s interests and goals?
- How do the materials reflect the child(ren)'s interests? How can children of different developmental levels use the materials?
- Why did you choose to do a small group, large group, or one-on-one interaction?

As children participate in the responsive learning experience, scaffold their learning. See Pack 4 of this PD2GO strand, *Scaffolding*, to learn about specific scaffolding strategies.

#### How Did It Go?

After planning and implementing a learning experience, reflect on the child(ren)'s learning. How did the learning experience respond to the child(ren)'s development and interests? What do you think the child(ren) learned through this responsive learning experience? What worked and why? What might you try next time?

#### What Next?

Repeat this activity as the interests of your group change and as you identify new learning goals for children. Work with your colleagues to make all learning experiences responsive to individual children, small groups, or the large group. Use the next pack in this bundle, *Culturally Responsive Practices*, to learn how to authentically weave children's culture into your curriculum.