

Quality Interactions and Communication: *Conversational Prompts*

CLOSED-ENDED AND OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Closed-ended questions are often answered with yes, no, or a one word response. Although these kinds of questions provide limited information, they can be used to get a conversation started.

Open-ended questions can draw out a broad range of descriptive responses, and invite children to expand on their thinking. These kinds of questions extend the conversation, prompting children to think critically and express their ideas.

Here are some examples of closed-ended and open-ended questions that can start and extend dialogue:

Closed-Ended Questions

- Which one is bigger?
- How are you today?
- How many are there?
- Do you like it?
- Was it fun?
- Did you like the story?
- Are there two or three... ?
- Is that a... ?
- What do we do next?
- Did you have a good day?
- What kind do you like?
- Are you sad today?
- Is it sunny or cloudy?
- What is your favorite?
- If we try... do you think it will work?
- Did it work?
- Should we try something else?

Open-Ended Questions

- How do you know this one is bigger?
- What can you tell me about... ?
- How did you get to that number?
- Why do you like it?
- What was fun about it?
- What did you like about the story?
- How did you decide?
- How do you know that it is a...?
- What would you do if... ?
- How did your day go?
- Why do you like it?
- Why do you think you feel... ?
- How has the weather changed today?
- How can you tell?
- What do you think will happen? Why?
- How can we find out?
- Why do you think it did or didn't work?