COACHING CORNER

INTENTIONAL INTERACTIONS IN TEACHING

Quality Interactions and Communication: *Scaffolding*

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

- When has someone scaffolded, or supported, my learning? How did I feel when I finally mastered the task or skill?
- How can I stretch myself to find scaffolding opportunities for individual children in my group?
- When I observe infants, toddlers, or preschoolers, what clues can I use to guide my scaffolding decisions for each age group?
- What challenges do I face making in-the-moment adjustments to scaffolding strategies while interacting with a child? What are some ways to overcome these challenges?

TRY IT OUT!

Choose **one** of the following developmental domains:

Social-emotional | Physical | Cognitive
Language and Literacy

- Identify a child in your program who is developing a skill or concept in that domain.
- Spend time observing that child engaged in an experience that fosters development of the skill or concept. What is the child saying or doing?
- Based on the cues from the child, intentionally choose a scaffolding strategy to support the child's development of the skill or concept. Use the Scaffolding Strategies Handout as a resource on different ways to scaffold children's learning.
- Adjust your scaffolding based on feedback from the child. You may need to try other scaffolding strategies.

How Did It Go?

After scaffolding the child's learning in the activity, record some notes and reflect on your practice. What strategies did you try? How did the child respond? What do you think the child learned? What might you try next time and why?

What Next?

Practice again: Try this practice activity with each child in your program and record your observations. Take time to reflect on your practice and share your experience. Check out the next bundle, "Supporting Concept Development," to learn more about extending children's learning.