

Supporting Concept Development: *Deep Learning*

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 have I gained a deeper understanding of something? What combination of experiences helped me learn and understand?
- What ideas or concepts are my group currently exploring? How can I deepen children’s learning of these concepts?
- How do I find out what children already know about a concept? How can I build on their existing knowledge when introducing a new idea or concept?
- What small changes can I make in my practice to better help children make connections across learning experiences?
- What do I notice about children’s understanding when I offer them multiple related opportunities to explore a concept?
- How can I stretch myself to use a basic web to plan multiple, related learning opportunities and/or share information about our curriculum with families?

TRY IT OUT!

Let’s practice creating deep learning experiences for the children in your group.

Steps	Examples
1. Think of an activity or project that the children in your group enjoyed recently.	Children have been enjoying rolling toy cars down the slide.
2. In this activity, identify what concept or ideas the children were exploring and learning.	They are showing interest in exploring the concept of motion, or how objects move.
3. Reflect on what children already know about this concept.	Most children know that objects with wheels can move.
4. Build on children’s existing knowledge. In the next week, plan a learning experience to deepen children’s understanding of this concept.	Set up a ramp and introduce a variety of objects—some that roll and others that don’t (e.g., cars, trains, balls, cylinder cans, blocks, rocks). Encourage children to investigate which objects roll and why.

How Did It Go?

After planning and implementation, reflect on the children’s learning and record your thoughts. How did the learning experience you planned deepen the children’s understanding of the concept? What worked and why? What might you try next time?

What Next?

Practice again! Use the web handout from the pack to plan additional, related learning experiences to continue exploring this concept. Follow the children’s lead and interests as you offer opportunities for deep learning. Use the next pack in this bundle, *Integrated Learning*, to think about how to facilitate learning experiences that support development in multiple domains.