



Step 3: DISCUSS

Develop Opinions / Share Ideas
Start Interesting Conversations

Use creative questioning based on what you see and what you already know to start interesting conversations. Asking, listening, and responding are all part of getting a conversation started. Different kinds of questions and “wait time” are important

Factual (closed) questions based on observation can help you teach and make children feel smart.

Which colors do you see?

Can you count the rectangles?

What things do you see that look like circles? letters?

Open-ended questions are invitations to use imagination and/or recall experiences. The answers are not right or wrong—just interesting.

Look at the . . . How (why) do you think they made that?

How do you think it would feel if that building had no windows?

If we added a garden there? . . . If we changed the color?

Wait time is an important part of having a conversation.

Allow children time to think and form answers, especially when memory and imagination are involved. Listen to children's answers and hear what they are saying. When you base your comments and questions on your child's answers and interests, you encourage conversation and facilitate learning.

Combining different kinds of questions with “wait time” encourages critical thinking, discovery and learning.