



Reflect on your own experiences with children, families, and colleagues. If you are an supervisor, administrator, or adult educator, how might you use these questions and activities to help other adults reflect on their experiences?

Turn Questions into Action

Our role as teacher-researcher not only allows us to answer burning questions and address areas of concern, but it also helps us grow professionally. Consider the framing questions again for the competency.

Who is this child, and how do I connect with him or her?

What does this child need from me to support his or her development and learning?

What is development and learning about for this child?

What is involved in knowing a child “full well”?

Try This!

Choose an area of children’s play that typically bothers you or you tend to ignore, and make it a focus of research for two weeks or more. Use the following process:

- 1) Choose and explore some interesting, open-ended materials with potential to promote this kind of play.
- 2) Offer these materials to children over an extended period of time and observe and document what unfolds.
- 3) Examine your documentation for new insights into the meaning and significance of this play for children.

Learn more about the role of play in children’s development and learning by reading Elizabeth Jones’ article, “Play Across the Life Cycle: From Initiative to Transcendence,” and apply the ideas to a current situation in your workplace. You can find the link to this article in the Keys to Reflection and Inquiry in the Child Development and Learning competency.