



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?

Consider the Child's Point of View

Did you know?

A child may have to try a new food as many as 15 times before he or she accepts it. This is true even for foods that are very familiar to adults and common in our culture. What happens then when a child encounters food that is unfamiliar and from another culture?

Read the story of Bong Hwan's first day at preschool...

When Bong Hwan was four years old his family moved to the United States. After several months, his parents enrolled Bong Hwan in a preschool nearby. He was nervous when the first day of preschool came, but he was also very excited. Bong Hwan was bored with just his big sister to play with, that is, *when* she would play with him. He knew that a new school meant new friends!

Bong Hwan's mother asked him what he wanted her to pack in his lunchbox. Of course he said his favorite food – kimpab. Kimpab is a rice roll wrapped in seaweed, with lots of delicious bits of meat, vegetables, and egg in the center. It is a common picnic food from his culture. Read the lunchtime conversation between Bong Hwan and his new friend Jason.

Jason: *"Hey, what's that?"* Jason points to the kimpab in Bong Hwan's plastic container.

Bong Hwan: *"Kimpab. Wanna try?"*

Jason: *"What's this black stuff?"*

Bong Hwan: *"Seaweed."*

Jason: *"Seaweed?! Yuck! My legs got caught in seaweed last summer at the beach. And you eat that?"*

Bong Hwan closed his container and drinks only his milk for lunch.

Try This!

Imagine that you are Bong Hwan in the scenario above. How do you feel? What might you be thinking?

Now, imagine that you are Jason. How do you feel? What might you be thinking? Why did you ask about Bong Hwan's lunch?

If you were the boys' teacher and overheard their conversation, how would you address this situation, without putting either child on the spot? What would you do and why?

How could this uncomfortable situation become a learning moment and a seed for further exploration of the topic?
