

## ACTIVITY 3

# Earth Science Visualization



### INTENT:

Participants experience using existing mental representations and reflect on the importance of developing these representations.



### OUTCOMES:

Participants experience a visualization experience, reflect on the visualization and the importance of developing mental representations, and consider how to best provide environments that allow for the development of schemas.



### MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Trainer Visualization Script (PowerPoint notes)
- PowerPoint slide

**TIME:** 5 minutes

### PROCESS:

#### Part 1 (Visualization):

Begin by reflecting on the physical and social environment:

- Today during the scavenger hunt, we experienced our physical environment.
- We also began to engage and develop our social environment.
- Together, these two environments enable us to understand and create mental representations (schemas) of our world.
- To better understand the vast importance of schemas, we will do a little visualization.



#### Part 2 (Post Visualization):

- As I changed what we were seeing, did you feel different? Did you see something different? Did you hear something different? You could do this because you have had first hand experiences with many of these items. You used your previous explorations to create an understanding of the events I am describing. The mental representations children develop in the early years will support their mental representations throughout childhood.
- The question for us as teachers then becomes:
  - Are we creating a culture of inquiry in the social environment so that children are motivated to explore and experience their world—so that they can develop these mental representations? Are we providing the variety of materials in their physical environment needed to develop these representations?
- We will spend the rest of the day exploring the foundations so that we can better understand what types of materials to provide and how to specifically support exploration of these materials so that children can develop mental representations with regard to these key concepts.
- As we do this, we will stop to think about the physical and social environment of our daily routine. We will add ideas to Handout 7: Creating Invitations through the Daily Routine to create a plethora of ideas by the end of the day.