

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING cont.

- Take pictures of an event the children shared or ask children to draw pictures and then ask children to put the photos or pictures in order.
- Take pictures when working together with children on a long-term project. Make *documentation panels* with the pictures, art, and other work children have done to document things that happened during the project. Revisit the panels and discuss with children.
- Provide opportunities to play with materials in ways that change them, such as cutting playdough and squishing it back together or mixing two colors of finger paint.
- Read and act out stories in which the characters must work to solve challenging problems or make decisions. Talk about what the characters might be thinking or feeling.



- Invite children to tell or *retell* stories and talk about recent events. Discuss the sequencing and timing of experiences.
- Introduce a problem and encourage children to generate as many solutions as possible. Ask them to think about possible consequences: “What would happen if they use this solution?”
- Ask *open-ended questions* that encourage children to think about what they are doing and possible next steps (“I wonder what would happen if you...”).
- Use reflective dialogue and comment on what children are doing as they play. This encourages children to pay attention to what they are doing, and it makes it easier for them to recall the event later.
- Encourage children to carry over their activities to the next day. For example, if children run into a problem they had not anticipated, they can produce solutions to try the following day.
- Be aware that children might be solving problems silently. Allow them time to do so. Support and encourage children to use words or actions to show what the problem is. This can help lead them to a solution (don't require them to explain the problem to you).
- Help children simplify complex tasks by breaking it into smaller parts.
- Provide safe opportunities for children to explore and problem solve; understand that failed attempts are part of the learning process and allow children to continue to *investigate* without immediately being shown the correct way.