

Conversations that occur in a High Quality Environment

Suggestions on conversations to support High Quality activities in the Block Center

Talking with Children About their Structures:

Choice of blocks: You found out that two of these blocks make one long block

The arrangement: You used four blocks to make a big square

The number used: You used more than ten blocks to make the road

Similarity: All the blocks in your road are exactly the same size.

Noteworthy designs: Your building is as tall as the shelf. Those long blocks are holding up the short ones. It took careful work to be sure the blocks wouldn't fall.

Ways to support children

- **Get down on the floor** with a child who is frustrated over a problem and offer support in solving the problem. For example, you might say, "Let's see if we can find another way to make those blocks stand up. "Do you think another block shape might work there?"
- **Display and discuss pictures** of constructions to inspire a child who has built the same construction every day for a week.
- **Add new accessories and props** to expand construction ideas
- **Ask questions about the type of structure** and what might belong with it. For instance, you might ask: "Who can live in that building? Or "How will people get to that building?"

Support Child Initiated Learning:

- Observing what they did
- Asking questions to help recall their experiences
- Listening to what they said
- Making suggestions based on their experiences
- Supplying props and making signs

Suggestions on conversations to support High Quality Art activities in the Art Center

- **Describe what you see:** I see you used all of the colors on the easel today. You were very careful about what materials you used in your collage and where you wanted to put them.
- **Talk about children's actions:** You really are pounding that playdough. Look how fast your arm is moving when you finger paint
- **Ask children about the process:** How did you make that new color? What part did you enjoy the most? How did you make these tiny circles?
- **Ask open-ended questions that encourage children to think and respond:** What are some ways that we can use these pieces of paper? What will happen if you mix these two colors together?
- **Use words that encourage and support the children's efforts:** You sure made a lot of paintings today. Which one should we hang up on the wall? Let's share what you made with your friends.