

Open Ended Questions

Language in Early Childhood Education is one of the most powerful tools we have to engage children in learning. When using opened ended questions: we can stretch children's reasoning ability, critical thinking skills, curiosity for learning, creativity and since of independence.

This makes the learning process about absorbing and reflecting on all facets of the material in a natural and curious state.

These posters are meant to be placed in learning center areas, to remind us and others working in the class to use Open Ended Questions frequently through out the day.

Math Center

- Can you tell me what shapes you used to create ...
- Can you tell me how you sorted the... (animals, shapes, people)
- How would you see how _____ that is? (tall, short, long, wide)
- What would happen if we _____ to the scale? (add or subtract something)
- Can you tell me how you made that picture using the pattern blocks?
- How did you figure out how many _____ you have?

Writing Center

- How would you describe what you drew?
- Can you tell me about your writing?
- Can you tell me about your story?
- How did you come up with that story?
- Why did you choice to write about...?
- Can you tell me what letters and words you used?
- Is there another way that you could tell that story?

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Building/Block Center

- Can you tell me how you used those _____? (blocks, sticks, boxes)
- How did you create that structure?
- What can you tell me about your structure?
- How did you create your road system?
- What do you suppose will happen if we...? (added more blocks, added animals, added sticks, added pebbles)
- What supplies will you need to make...? (barn, house, sky scraper, bridge)
- How do you think you can reach that truck?
- How do you think you could make that...? (taller, wider, longer)

Dramatic Play Center

- Why would you like to be a...? (doctor, nurse, firefighter, police officer, postal worker, pilot)
- If you were the cook, what kinds of things would you fix for ...? (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- What would happen if _____ came to your house? (grandma, grandpa, friend, cousin)
- Can you tell me how you made that ...? (burger, salad, cake, pizza)
- What would you need to turn this into a _____? (restaurant, doctors office, Ice Cream Parlor)

Creative Art Center

- What do you think we could do with...? (craft sticks, pebbles, paper tubs, shells)
- How can you get that to stick?
- Can you tell me what you created?
- How did you create...? (what ever child tells you he/she made)
- What did you use to create...? (what ever child tells you he/she made)
- Can you tell me about your painting?
- Can you tell me how you made all of those colors?
- Can you tell me how you used all the colors?

Science Center

- What would happen if...?
- How are they alike?
- How are they different?
- What is it doing? (class pet, plant, science experiment)
- How would you describe what happened?
- What will happen if you...? (add color, water, salt)
- What happened when you added...?
- What else can you do with...? (magnifying glasses, microscope, magnets)
- What do you think will happen?

General Open Ended Questions

- What would happen if...?
- I wonder...
- What do you think about...?
- In what way...?
- Tell me about...?
- What would you do...?
- How can we...?
- How did you...?
- In what way...?
- What do you suppose...?

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