

The Calm Corner



Westminster
Preschool

POWER

OF

Interactions



Contents

1. **Introduction**
2. **What is a Powerful Interaction?**
3. **Benefits**
4. **Extending Learning**
5. **Using Questions**

Interactions



Interactions are the exchanges in words and gestures that you have with others—in particular, the exchanges that you as a teacher have with young children.



P o w e r f u l

I n t e r a c t i o n s

Intentional

Teacher is intentionally connecting with a particular child in order to extend that child's learning.

Connection

Teacher conveys to the child that they are interested in them.

Value

Seek to understand each child as an individual.

Turning everyday interactions into powerful interactions



1) Be Present

Slow Down

Be in the moment and self aware. By physically and mentally slowing down for just a few moments, you can pay better attention.

Assess Bias

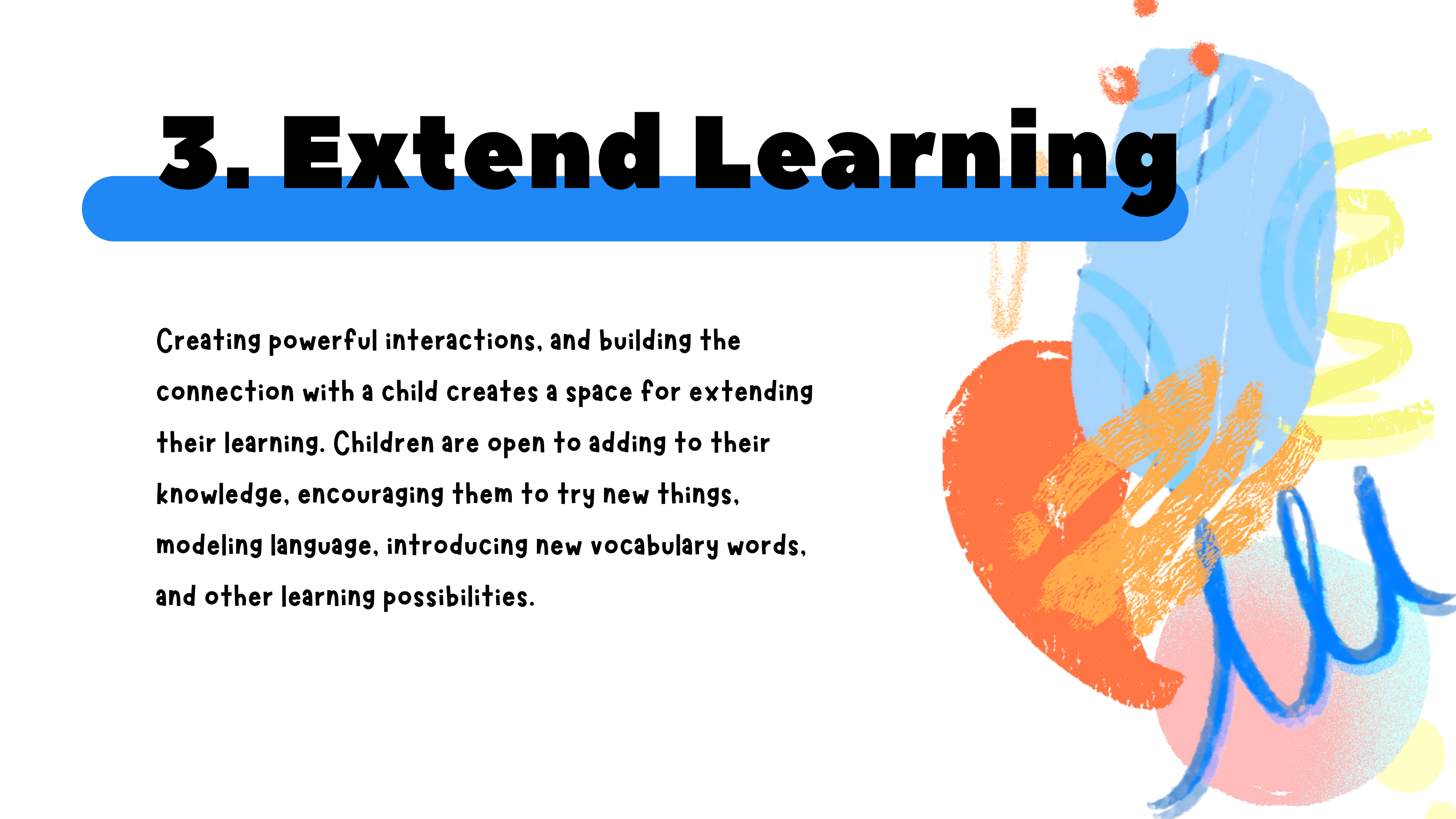
Get in the moment with the child and assess you own personal feelings. Reflect on your own personal biases, that shape how you pay attention to each child.



2. Connect

Acknowledging and validating child by letting them know you see them, are interested in them, know who they are, and want to spend time with them.

3. Extend Learning



Creating powerful interactions, and building the connection with a child creates a space for extending their learning. Children are open to adding to their knowledge, encouraging them to try new things, modeling language, introducing new vocabulary words, and other learning possibilities.

Practice

The more you practice the three steps, the easier and more natural powerful connections become. You learn to respond deliberately and reflectively, rather than react. You can more effectively support children's learning because you are able to anticipate your impact on the child and child's impact on you.



04

Benefits

Children

Instruction becomes more individualized.

Classroom Climate

Children are calmer, behavior problems are reduced and more time can be devoted to learning.

Family Partnerships

Families feel more connected to you and know you care and respect their child's individuality.



**How Do
Children Ask
for
Connection?**

Bids for Connection

Gottmans Theory

A bid is simply an attempt to get attention, acceptance, or connection. Most of children's negative behaviors are either bids for 1) attention or connection or 2) a sense of power or control.

Negative Vs. Positive Interactions

That "magic ratio" is 5 to 1. This means that for every negative interaction during conflict, a stable and happy relationship has five (or more) positive interactions.

Tips for Active Listening



01

On their Level

Sit or kneel and look the child in the eyes. Avoid listening while you are busy with something else, and not giving them your full attention.

02

Give the child time

Don't rush the child with another question. Wait and listen providing space for the child to work through their thoughts.

03

Convey "I hear You"

Offer responses like "I understand" and be engaged with the child. Avoid interrupting.

04

Acknowledging

Acknowledge the child's feelings, "that sounded like it made you angry?" Instead of "that made you angry."

05

Teach them to listen to others

Teach children to wait and listen instead of interrupting. Use phrases such as "thank you for your patience" and "thank you for waiting for ... to finish"




Respecting the Child

1. Use a warm, calm, and natural tone of voice
2. Talk with children—rather than at them
3. Listen attentively
4. Be polite
5. Talk with children in private when guiding their behavior
6. Ask permission before touching a child
7. Give children—and yourself—a fresh start each day



Extending Learning

10 Strategies



01 Help children see
themselves are thinkers

02 Respond to curiosities


03 Use mirror talk

04 Have conversations

05 Inspire Imaginative Play

11

10 Strategies



06 Solve Problems Together

09 Ask Questions

07 Use Rich Vocabulary

10 Link the New to the Familiar

08 Laugh with Children

Meaningful Questions



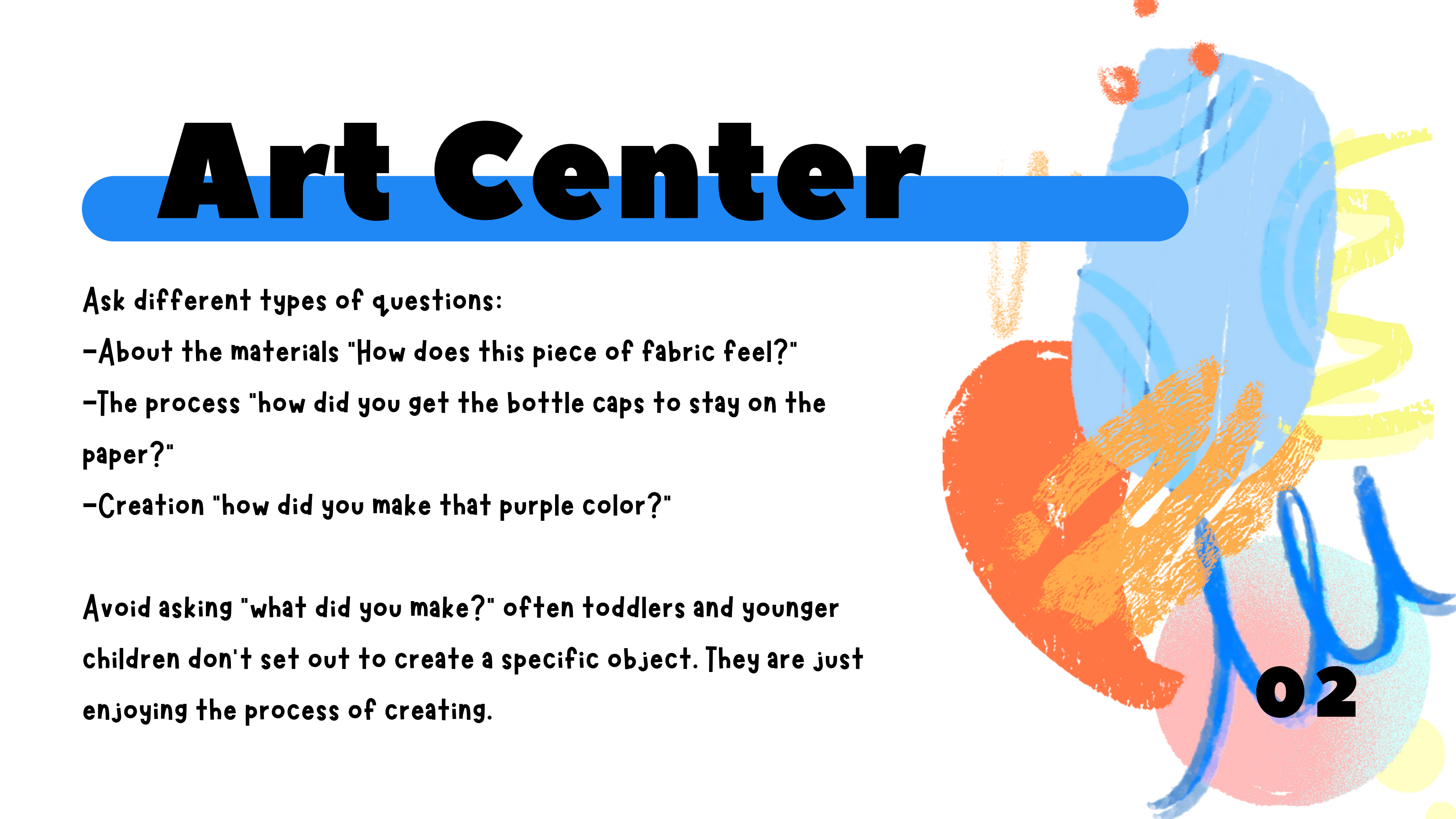
02



1. Remember
2. Understand
3. Apply
4. Analyze
5. Evaluate
6. Create

Blooms Taxonomy

Art Center



Ask different types of questions:

- About the materials "How does this piece of fabric feel?"**
- The process "how did you get the bottle caps to stay on the paper?"**
- Creation "how did you make that purple color?"**

Avoid asking "what did you make?" often toddlers and younger children don't set out to create a specific object. They are just enjoying the process of creating.

Writing Center



"Tell me about your writing on the page with the big 5 in the middle"

Have writing journals and folders available for children to look back and reflect on their work. A variety of materials motivates children.

Manipulatives



Ask questions related to counting, measuring, sorting, sequencing, and patterning. Encourage children to compare quantities and sizes and recognize shapes and patterns.

"Can you come up with a game to play with the animals?"

"Did you use more squares or triangles?"

Dramatic Play

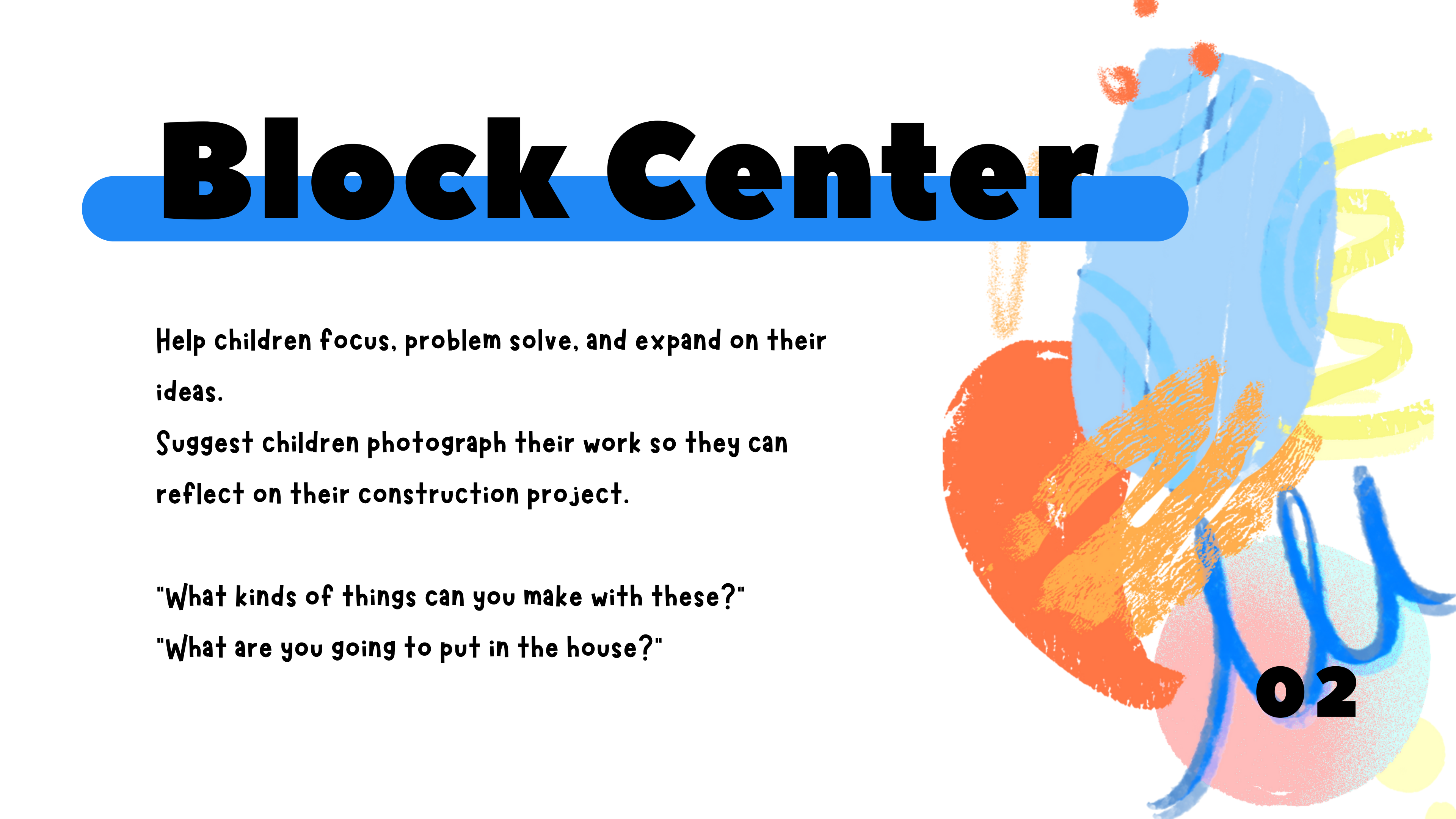


Ask questions that help the play become more sophisticated as the children develop.

"How do I take care of the baby?"

"When you were a baby, what did you do different from what you do now?"

Block Center



Help children focus, problem solve, and expand on their ideas.

Suggest children photograph their work so they can reflect on their construction project.

"What kinds of things can you make with these?"

"What are you going to put in the house?"

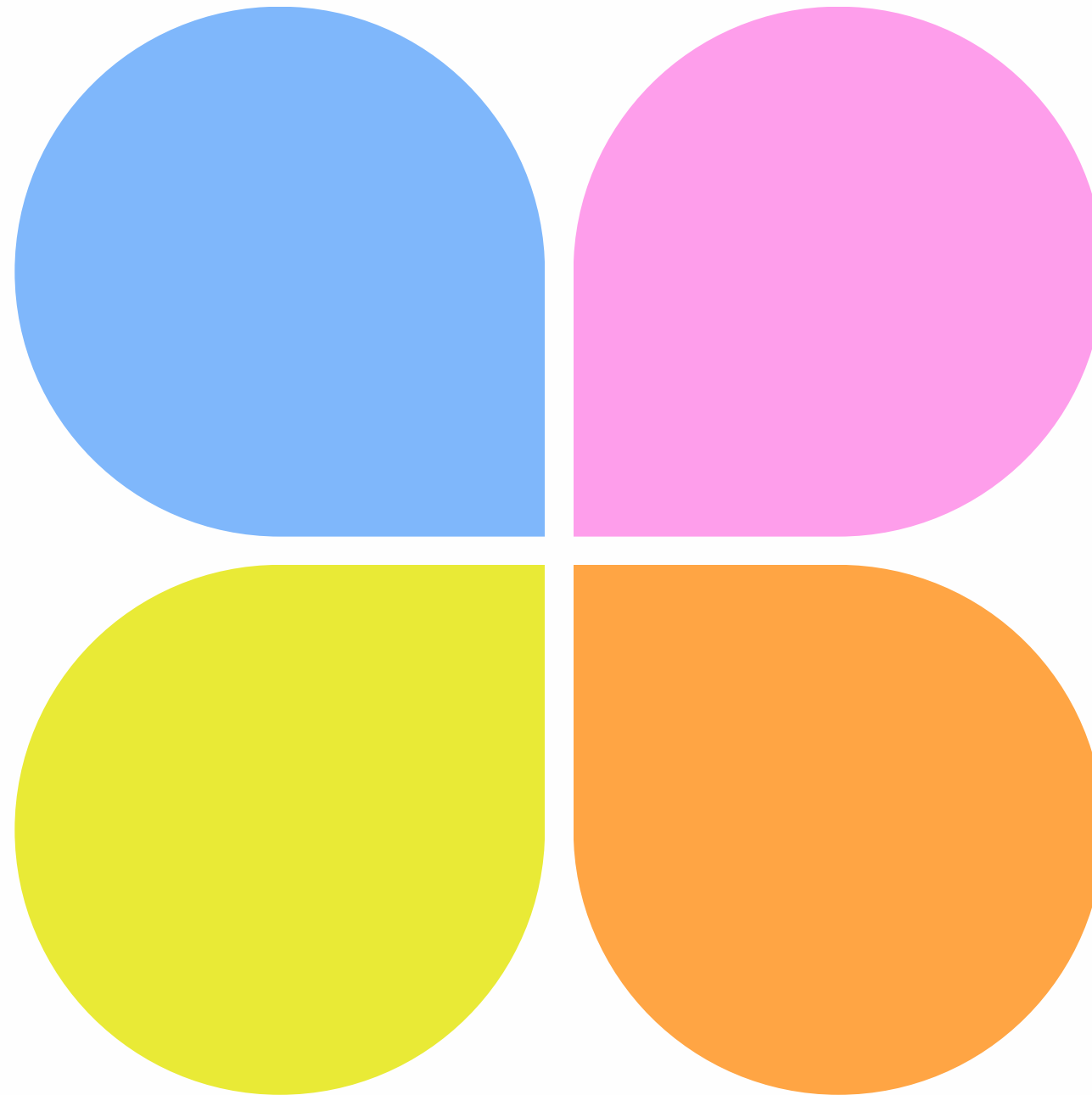
Tips for Asking Good Questions

Plan

Plan your questions, thinking about where your student's are developmentally

Use "I Wonder.."

Try starting a question with "I Wonder..." or "What do you notice..."



Prior

Knowledge

Consider children's prior knowledge

Vocabulary

Don't be afraid to use big words. Use words in context to help them understand and build vocabulary.



**What Questions do
YOU have?**