

## **A Thinking Lens for Reflection and Inquiry**

Use these Thinking Lens questions to help guide your thinking and discussions.

### *Knowing Yourself*

- What captures my attention when the children engage, explore, and interact?
- What delights me as I watch and listen?
- What in my background and values is influencing my response to this situation and why?
- What adult perspectives – for example, standards, health and safety, time, and goals – are on my mind?

### *Finding the Details of Children's Competency that Engage Your Heart and Mind*

- What do I notice in the children's face and actions?
- Where do I see examples of children's strengths and competencies?
- What do I think is valuable about this experience?

### *Seeking the Child's Point of View*

- What is the child drawn to and excited about?
- What might the child be trying to accomplish?
- Why might the child be interacting with others in this way?
- What developmental themes, schemas, ideas, or theories might the child be exploring?

### *Examining the Physical/Social/Emotional Environment*

- How is the organization and use of the physical space and materials impacting this situation?
- How could we strengthen relationships here?
- How are schedules and routines influencing this experience?

### *Considering Multiple Perspectives*

- How might the child's culture and family background be influencing this situation?
- What questions might we ask to get the perspective of the child's family?
- Who else or what other perspective should we consider?
- What child development or early learning theories should we consider in this experience?
- What desired early learning outcomes do I see reflected here?

### *Considering Opportunities and Possibilities for Next Steps*

- What values, philosophy, and desired outcomes do I want to influence my response?
- What new or existing relationships could be strengthened?
- Which learning goals could be focused here?
- What other materials and activities could be offered to build on this experience?
- What new vocabulary could we begin to use?

*From Reflecting in Communities of Practice: A Workbook for Early Childhood Educators by Deb Curtis, Debbie Lebo, Wendy C.M. Cividanes, and Margie Carter (2013)*