



Higher Order Thinking Prompts

While in conversations with children, higher order thinking prompts support children to predict, invent, problem-solve and make connections in their worlds. Early learning practitioners who observe, listen, pause and wonder position themselves to engage in more meaningful dialogues with children that truly deepen learning (Green, 2011).

Questions that extend children's learning:

- How else could you have...?
- How are these _____ the same?
- How are these _____ different?

How or why does this work?

- About how long? (many, wide, tall, heavy, big, more, etc.)
- What would you do if...?
- What would happen if...?
- What else could you have done?

What do you plan to do next?

- If I do this; what else will happen?
- How else could you ...?
- Why did you...?

What gave you this idea?

- How did you...?

What part did you start with?

- How did you know where...?
- How did you know which...?
- How did you know when...?

What were you thinking about when ...?

- How could you use some other materials to...?
- How could you record/save your work?
- How could you record your ideas?
- How could you share your discovery?
- How did you estimate what the answer would be?
- How did you prove your estimate?
- I wonder what would happen if...?
- What decisions can you make from the pattern that you discovered?
- How else might you have solved this problem?
- What would happen if we use different numbers?
- What things in the classroom have the same shape?
- How is this pattern like addition?
- What would you measure it with? Why?
- How are adding and multiplying the same?
- What does this make you think of?
- What other math can connect with this?
- When do you use this math at home? At school? Outside?
- Where do you see _____ at school? At home? Outside?
- How is this like something you have done before?

The ECCDC is grateful to its partners who have contributed to the development of this Higher Order Thinking Prompts resource: the District School Board of Niagara and Cindy Green, workshop facilitator and former professor of Early Childhood Education at Seneca College.

The Higher Order Thinking Prompts resource is included in each provocation for learning kit developed by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre. The kits are available for borrowing from the ECCDC Resource and Lending Library and available for sale through ECCDC's Estore at <https://eccdc.eccdc.org/shop/> or by calling 905.646.7311 extension 304.

