

Reflecting on Interactions & Learning

Read through the following scenarios and then answer the questions below. Think about the unique ways the preschoolers are interacting and developing thinking skills. Think about how you might respond.

- On the playground, a caregiver helps the children design an obstacle course. She cheers as a team of children runs around a cone, jumps over a rope, and crawls through a hoop. When a child asks how fast they ran, she suggests counting while they run the loop again.
- A provider is kneeling near the art easel with a 4-year-old boy. She comments on his art, "Wow, I see you mixed yellow and blue, and it turned green. What do you think will happen now that you're adding red?"
- A 3-year-old girl is pretending to write a note to her mother. She fills the page with scribbles and squiggly lines. As the little girl reads her note out loud, a caregiver writes down the girl's words and attaches it to the note. They put it in an envelope and place it in the girl's cubby.
- A group of children kneel to look at a beetle on the playground. The provider joins in and asks, "What do you notice about the beetle?" Children begin to describe its size, color, shape, and body parts.

1. What thinking skills do you think these children are developing or demonstrating in each scenario?

2. How is each child's cognitive development being acknowledged and responded to by the adult?

3. Would you do anything differently? What experiences might you offer?