



CAROUSEL BRAINSTORM: FACILITATOR GUIDE

Activity overview: In this activity, participants identify practices that encourage and support children's thinking skills.

Directions: Prior to the training, prepare a poster for each of the three strategies that are used to foster children's thinking skills. See below for examples of how to prepare the posters. Then, on four to six small pieces of paper write a topic of interest to preschoolers (trucks, plants, snow, families, etc.) and put them in a container.

Divide the group into three smaller groups and assign each group a strategy to foster children's thinking skills. Have them gather in front of the poster with their strategy. Ask each group to select a recorder and a reporter. Give each recorder a different colored marker. Ask the recorders to select a topic from the container and fill in the blank on their poster. The groups then brainstorm examples related to the topic while the recorder writes them on the poster.

After a designated period of time, signal groups to rotate to the left. Groups brainstorm again and add new examples. Repeat until teams return to their first poster.

To conclude, gather the small groups into a large group again. Ask each reporter to share three to five ideas with the large group.

Note: The markers travel with the team.

Poster 1

Focus on BIG Ideas

What are some BIG ideas
about _____?

Poster 2

Deepen General Knowledge of the World

How can I help deepen
children's knowledge of
_____?

Poster 3

Apply Knowledge and Problem Solve

How can I help children apply
knowledge and problem solve
around _____?



Example: Trucks

Poster 1

Focus on BIG Ideas

What are some BIG ideas about trucks?

Trucks carry things that are too heavy for people to carry.

Trucks help us move things around.

People drive trucks for a living.

Trucks are designed for specific purposes and that's why they look different.

Trucks are made of many parts.

Poster 2

Deepen General Knowledge of the World

How can I help deepen children's knowledge of trucks?

Place a variety of toy trucks in areas such as blocks, sand table, and outdoors.

When children play with trucks, talk with them:

Make comments:

- Supply the names of trucks (dump truck, log truck, tractor-trailer, etc.).
- People drive trucks to pick up garbage.
- Some trucks have four wheels and some have eight.

Ask questions:

- What is that truck carrying?
- Where is the truck going?
- What else could this truck carry?
- Do you know anyone who drives a truck?

Poster 3

Apply Knowledge and Problem Solve

How can I help children apply knowledge and problem solve around trucks?

Place a variety of toy trucks in areas such as blocks, sand table, and outdoors. Make materials such as stones of various sizes, branches, and blocks available as well.

When children play with trucks, ask or make comments to encourage application and problem-solving::

- How many blocks can fit in your truck? How do you know?
- Can your truck carry more blocks or branches?
- Do you think your truck can carry more rocks? Try it.