



## FACILITATING THICK CONVERSATIONS

Children benefit from “thick,” extended conversations in the classroom. Here are four key ways, each with specific strategies you can use, to extend conversations with children.

<b>Encourage back-and-forth exchanges.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Talk about children’s interests and experiences.</li><li>• Take turns speaking.</li><li>• Provide time for children to respond.</li></ul>
<b>Extend children’s language.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expand children’s words by adding a little more.</li><li>• Add new vocabulary to words children are already using.</li><li>• Restate children’s language using correct grammar.</li></ul>
<b>Invite children to talk about what they are working on.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comment on what children are doing.</li><li>• Ask questions about what children say or do, and what they can do next.</li><li>• Encourage children to make comparisons, consider other possibilities, and think beyond the here and now.</li></ul>
<b>Encourage higher level thinking.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Share what you know and/or understand.</li><li>• Explain your thinking process.</li><li>• Introduce new concepts or skills.</li></ul>