

Quality Interactions and Communication: *Scaffolding*

SCAFFOLDING IN THE SHOE STORE

A preschool classroom busily transforms their dramatic play area into a shoe store.

Desiree says: Messy—look at all the shoes!

Anika says: Let's put them in boxes.

Desiree grabs two of the same shoes in different sizes.

Desiree exclaims (Excited): Look! Blue shoes in box.

Anika replies (Bossy): Nuh-uh. They don't go.

Desiree argues (Frustrated): Yeah!

The teacher, Eric, approaches the pair of children.

Eric says: I see you're setting up the shoe store. What are you doing with the shoes and boxes?

Anika responds: Desiree says those shoes go in the box, but they don't.

Desiree says: See, blue shoes.

Eric describes: Hmm, it looks like you're working on putting the shoes together in the boxes. How are you organizing the shoes?

No response from Desiree or Anika.

Eric asks: Why did you choose to put these shoes in the box?

Desiree replies: Blue.

Eric echoes: Yes, they are blue. They are the same color. Maybe we can put them on the floor next to each other. What do you notice?

Anika claims: They aren't the same.

Eric agrees: They aren't the same. Why do you think that?

Anika explains: This is big. That one is little.

Desiree echoes: Big!

Desiree holds up the bigger shoe.

Eric asks: Oh, you are noticing the size of the shoes. How can we tell if these shoes are the same size or a different size?

Anika responds: Put them next to each other.

Eric prompts: Let's try that. Desiree, can you put those shoes next to each other?

Desiree puts them next to each other without lining them up.

Eric instructs: Almost! To see if they are the same size, we need to line up the back of the shoes and take a look at the front.

Anika helps line up the edges.

Eric instructs: What do you think? Are they the same or different?

Desiree exclaims: Different!