

### Quality Interactions and Communication: *Scaffolding*

#### SCAFFOLDING STRATEGIES

While interacting with children, teachers/providers can use a variety of scaffolding strategies. Here are some examples of effective scaffolding strategies to either add or reduce challenge to support children's learning.

**Make connections:** Help children see the connection between two related concepts/tasks or between content and their personal experiences.

- *The zoo in this book reminds me of when you told us about your trip to the zoo last weekend.*

**Share information:** Offer children additional information that will help them better understand a task or concept.

- *This glue takes a little while to dry. Let's stick the papers together and then work on something else while the glue dries.*

**Ask Questions:** Ask children questions, such as how/why or prediction questions, to guide their thinking and support their reasoning.

- *How might we solve this problem?*
- *What do you think might happen next in the book?*
- *What will happen if we add water to the sand?*

**Provide hints:** Spark children's ideas by offering clues or suggestions that will guide them in the right direction.

- *Look at the green on the edge of this puzzle piece. Where else do you see green on the other pieces?*

**Give directions:** Provide explicit step-by-step instructions for how to complete the task.

- *When we use the potty, first we unzip our pants and pull them down. Then, we sit on the potty. When we are all done, we flush the toilet.*

**Model behaviors:** Demonstrate for the child how to perform a task.

- *It can be tricky to put on socks. Watch how I do it. I open the top real wide, put my toes inside, and start pulling the sock around my foot.*