

ASKING QUESTIONS

Asking questions is an essential part of an early childhood professional's work to gain information and establish shared understanding. However, it is not always simple. Some questions may be difficult to ask and professionals may shy away from topics that need to be addressed. It is also important to consider how others will perceive the questions we ask so they do not come across as insensitive or disingenuous.

Directions: Read the scenarios below. Then reflect on the questions in each box.

Scenario	Do you think it was necessary?	Do you think it was sensitive?	Do you think it was planned?	What would you do/say different (if anything)?
One of the boys in a teacher's class always plays dress up at school. When his parents arrive for pick-up, she looks at the dad and asks, "Is he allowed to play dress up much at home?"	Example: I think the conversation could be beneficial so the family and teacher can share information about the child's interests and developmentally appropriate play.	Example: No. The question seemed to accuse the dad of not allowing his child to dress up.	Example: No. Pickup was not a good time to have this conversation and it seemed spur of the moment.	Example: To be more sensitive, I would save the conversation for private and address both parents, "I noticed ___ likes to play dress up at school. Does he at home too?"

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<p>Laney and her twin Lexi have two moms. On their first day of preschool, the teacher says to the moms, “Oh! They look like both of you. Who gave birth?”</p>				
<p>A school psychologist is seeing a child who witnessed gun violence in his neighborhood . The psychologist asks the child to draw a picture of what happened and then asks, “Can you tell me about the picture?”</p>				

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<p>A family tells their childcare provider that at their last center, their child had a traumatic experience. The childcare provider immediately asks, "Which center was it?"</p>				
<p>A mom tells her home EI provider that she is going back to school to get her PhD. The EI provider asks, "Who is going to help with all the housework?"</p>				