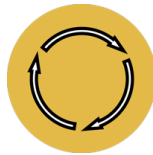




The Compass

The Compass is divided into four conceptual paths. These paths include Literacy Reasoning, Science Reasoning, Math Reasoning, and Social Reasoning. These conceptual paths were chosen because they map onto key skills children will encounter in kindergarten.

The arrow within the center of the compass contains the categories for the question trail—informing, analyzing, and brainstorming.



The Feedback Loop

The foundation of being a good conversation partner rests on knowing how to use a conversation feedback loop to keep the conversation going. The three important parts of a feedback loop are—asking open-ended questions, actively listening, and mirroring to expand and clarify what has been said.



The Map

The Map is a step-by-step planning form for writing down your instructional conversation plan. By using the Compass in conjunction with the Map you can be sure you are incorporating all of the key elements of the Conversation Compass approach into your plans. The more you use the map, the better you will become at leading instructional peer conversations.



The Question Trail

The foundation of the Question Trail is open-ended questions that allow children the opportunity to talk freely and to express their thought processes and opinions. Open-ended questions not only allow children to talk, but they also foster their thinking and creativity. The goal is not to be preoccupied with whether or not children answer the questions correctly. It is more important that children have the chance to talk about what they think and their ideas. Think about open-ended questions as falling into three categories—informing, analyzing, and brainstorming.



Tracking Peer Conversations

The Tracking Peer Conversations form is a note-taking tool to be used while observing children during small group and peer play activities.