



The Role of the Preschool Teacher: Unit 3, Key Topic 4

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## The Preschool Teacher

### **Building Skills for Reflective Teaching**

- Chapter 3 of the *California Preschool Program Guidelines* (pp. 46-47)
- Carter, M., W. Cividanes, D. Curtis, and D. Lebo. 2010. "Becoming a Reflective Teacher." *Teaching Young Children* 3 (4): 18–20  
[http://www.naeyc.org/files/tyc/file/TYC\\_V3N4\\_Reflectiveteacherexpanded.pdf](http://www.naeyc.org/files/tyc/file/TYC_V3N4_Reflectiveteacherexpanded.pdf)

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## The Preschool Teacher

### **Becoming a Reflective Teacher**

#### **A reflective teacher...**

- Examines his or her own reactions to children or their actions to understand their source.
- Is curious about children's play and watches it closely.
- Documents details of children's conversations and activities.

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## The Preschool Teacher

### **Becoming a Reflective Teacher**

#### **A reflective teacher...**

- Takes time to study notes and photos to puzzle out what is significant.
- Eagerly shares stories about children's learning with families and co-workers.
- Asks co-workers and children's families for their insights.

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### **Becoming a Reflective Teacher**

#### **A reflective teacher...**

- Reads professional literature to learn more.
- Shows children photos and stories of themselves to hear their views.
- Changes the environment and materials to encourage new play and learning possibilities.

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## The Preschool Teacher

### **Building Skills for Reflective Teaching**

*NAEYC resource*

*NEXT: The Teaching Young Children Staff Development Guide (April/May 2010)*

[http://www.naeyc.org/files/tyc/file/TYC\\_V3N4\\_Reflectiveteacherexpanded.pdf](http://www.naeyc.org/files/tyc/file/TYC_V3N4_Reflectiveteacherexpanded.pdf)

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## The Preschool Teacher

"A reflective teacher . . ."	Questions and examples
examines his or her own reactions to children or their actions to understand their source.	
is curious about children's play and watches it closely.	
documents details of children's conversations and activities.	

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- Read the vignette on page 165 of the *California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Volume 1*.
- In small groups, discuss the "Questions for Reflection" from page 46 of the *California Preschool Program Guidelines*.

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### Teacher Interview

- Gather information about reflective practice from a teacher who works with young children.
- Does the teacher engage in reflection? In what ways?
- Are there specific questions or considerations the teacher uses for reflection?

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### Teacher Interview

- What is the teacher's background in teaching preschool children?
- What responses were similar to the questions in the "Thinking Lens"? What were some new strategies or questions? What responses surprised you?
- Based on your interview, what insights occurred to you about being a reflective teacher?

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- Which questions or examples from Handout 1 caught your attention?
- Which ones seem the easiest for you to incorporate into your practice? Which ones seem more difficult?

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- Think about becoming a reflective teacher as similar to taking a trip, where would you see yourself:
- (1) trying to decide where to go, (2) making the arrangements, (3) packing, (4) starting out, (5) in the middle, (6) at the end, (7) sharing photos with friends, or (8) helping others take a similar trip?
- What can you do to move from one phase of your trip to the next?

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- Which ideas stood out most for you?
- What seemed familiar or reinforced what you already know or have experienced?
- What gave you a new perspective or insight that causes you to think differently about teaching preschool children and/or engaging their families?

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- Why do you think the content of this class session was presented the way it was? How did this approach help you understand the content? What else would have helped?
- What does this tell you about how you learn?

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- How will you decide what to apply from this class session in your work with preschool children and families?
- What will you do to ensure you will implement what you have decided to use?

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### **Observation and Reflection**

- ✓ Conduct an observation of a preschool class.
- ✓ Reflect on the observation by using the questions in the “Thinking Lens,” *California Preschool Program Guidelines*, page 47.

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### **Observation and Reflection**

- ✓ Write a summary of your observations and reflections. If you interviewed the teacher, include these insights.
- ✓ Conclude with 1-2 paragraphs describing what you learned about yourself as a reflective teacher through the observation.