



## Thinking Routines

Thinking routines provide a simple structure to guide classroom interactions in some situations. Here are some examples of thinking routines which may be suitable for the preschool classroom:

### See-Think-Wonder

What do you see?

What do you think  
about it?

What does it make  
you wonder?

#### Purpose:

This thinking routine helps to stimulate a sense of wonder and curiosity and encourages children to make careful observations and thoughtful interpretations of what they see.

#### Application:

Try using this routine when:

- Getting children to think carefully about why something looks the way it does.
- Starting a new theme/topic to invite children's interest.

### Imagine if...

*(Choose an object  
or situation) How  
can you make it more*

*(e.g., useful, beautiful,  
safer, stronger)?*

#### Purpose:

This routine encourages children's inventiveness as children come up with new and different ideas and build upon them.

#### Application:

Try using this routine when getting children to explore the possibilities of improving, tinkering with, or tweaking any object or situation.



## Think-Puzzle-Explore

What do you know about this topic? What are you thinking about?

What puzzles you and what questions do you have?

What does the topic make you want to explore? What about the topic do you want to find out more?

### **Purpose:**

This thinking routine activates children's prior knowledge and encourages them to generate ideas. It helps to stimulate a sense of wonder and curiosity.

### **Application:**

Try using this routine when:

- Starting a new theme/topic to check on children's prior knowledge.
- Encouraging children to ask questions, seek answers and make discoveries.

## Same and Different

How might these two objects/people/situations be the same?

How might these two objects/people/situations be different?

### **Purpose:**

This thinking routine helps children see similarities and differences between different objects, people and situations and can be used to cultivate their social awareness and respect for different cultures and groups.

### **Application:**

Try using this routine when introducing artefacts, people or events from different cultures to the children.