Expanding Children's Responses to Promote Learning, Thinking and Reflections

Ways to expand children's responses	Examples of what teachers can say/ask
Clarifying ideas	• "Do you think that this stone will sink if I put it in the water? Why do you think so?"
Encouraging further thinking	• "You have really thought hard about how to change the actions for the song. How else will you move to the song?"
Inviting children to elaborate	• "I really want to know more about this. Can you tell me more about it?" • "What else do you know about...?"
Modelling thinking and language	• "I am going to give each one of you 10 multi-link cubes so that you have enough cubes to build a tall tower." • "You are pretending to be a doctor. You are attending to a patient by listening to his heartbeat using the stethoscope and taking his temperature with the thermometer."
Offering an alternative viewpoint	• "Maybe Goldilocks wasn't being naughty when she ate the porridge. What do you think?" • "Maybe Diana wanted you to read with her when she chose the same book as you. What do you think?'
Offering your own experience	• "Luckily, you were wearing your raincoat when it rained so heavily just now. Look at me. I am soaking wet because I forgot to bring an umbrella today." • "I like to read when I have some free time at home. What do you like to do at home when you are free?"
Re-capping and rephrasing	• "Are you thinking that...?" • "This was what happened the last time when we..." • "What else do you remember about it?"
Reminding	• "Don't forget that you said this stone will sink if I put it in the water." "What do you see happening now?" • "Remember we said we should take less sugar as it's healthier? How many spoons of sugar should you put in your drink?"
Speculating	• "Do you think the three bears would have liked Goldilocks to come to live with them as their friend?" • "Do you think the very hungry caterpillar will eat the food that had given him a bad stomach ache again?"
Suggesting	• "You may want to try doing it in a different way. Why don't you try to mix the two colours together?" • "Why don't you try doing it differently by putting the bigger block at the bottom?"

This resource is adapted from pages 108 to 109 of NEL Framework 2022.