



Sustained Shared Thinking and Maths

Sustained shared thinking is strongly associated with high-quality teaching and learning. Engaging in sustained interactions supports children to learn new vocabulary, engage in problem solving, learn ways to clarify their thinking and engage in dialogue and debate.

Here are some top tips for supporting sustained shared thinking.

- **Tune in:** listen carefully to what is being said, observe body language, and non-verbal cues.
- **Show genuine interest:** give your whole attention providing eye contact, affirming by smiling and nodding.
- **Respect children's interest, decisions and choices by asking them to elaborate:** I really want to know more.... How did you learn about this....?
- **Re-cap:** So you think that....
- **Clarify the ideas:** I hear you saying...is that right?
- **Use encouragement to further thinking:** You have really thought this through...you've been working hard at this...
- **Offer an alternative viewpoint:** What do you think the wolf can see?
- **Ask open ended questions:** How did you.... What does this mean....What do you think will happen next...I wonder what will happen if.... What do you think we should do.....?
- **Model thinking out loud:** I am thinking that if I do this will happen. Can you help me think through the problem?

Adapted from Professor Iram Siraj-Blatchford's presentation on Quality Interactions in the Early Years, 2005.