The Caregiver's Role in Helping Children Learn

Name _____Per _____Date_____

Directions: Complete the following scenarios with ideas about how you can ask meaningful questions and help children increase their knowledge and language skills.

Scenario #1

A child brings her dog for show and tell. All of the children are very excited about the dog.

1. What are some meaningful questions you could ask the children?

2. What information could you share with the children that would increase their language skills and knowledge about dogs?

Scenario #2

It is late September and you have taken the class for a walk to collect leaves.

1. What are some meaningful questions you could ask the children?

2. What information could you share with the children that would increase their language skills and knowledge about trees and leaves?

Scenario #3

It is the first snowfall of the year.

1. What are some meaningful questions you could ask the children?

2. What information could you share with the children that would increase their language skills and knowledge about snow?

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TEACHER'S KEY

Scenario #1

A child brings her dog for show and tell. All of the children are very excited about the dog.

- Examples of meaningful questions:
    - What does your dog like to do?
    - How are dogs the same as/different from people? Cats?
    - How do you take care of a dog?
- Examples of information:
    - All dogs have four legs and are covered with fur.
    - Dogs need to be cared for. They need food and water and exercise.
    - Doctors who care for animals are called veterinarians.
    - There are many different kinds of dogs. Dogs come in many sizes and colors.

Scenario #2

It is late September and you have taken the class for a walk to collect leaves.

- Examples of meaningful questions:
    - Why do you think that the leaves are different shapes, colors, and sizes?
    - When do leaves fall off the trees?
    - Why do leaves fall off trees?
- Examples of information:
    - Leaves change colors and fall to the ground in fall.
    - There are many different kinds of trees. Each tree has its own shape and size of leaf.
    - Leaves grow on trees every spring.

Scenario #3

It is the first snowfall of the year.

- Examples of meaningful questions:
    - What is the temperature outside when it snows?
    - What are some of the things we can do in the snow?
    - What happens to snow when it gets warm?
- Examples of information:
    - All snowflakes are different.
    - It must be cold outside to snow.
    - Snow melts and changes to water when warm.
    - We wear warm coats, hats, mittens, and boots to go outside in the snow.