



Pre-K: Concept Development

Title: Promoting Thinking Skills in a Discussion about Buildings and Skyscrapers

During individual time, the teacher asks a student a variety of questions about different buildings and structures, facilitating the student's use of analysis and reasoning.

Analysis and Reasoning

- The teacher asks questions that focus on comparisons: "Which one is tall?"; "Which one is short?"
- The teacher asks open-ended questions, which lead to longer discussions, such as, "Why do you think they have a building like that?", "What do you think is in that skyscraper?", "What are the people doing?", and "What do you think the windows are made out of?"
- The teacher consistently ensures the student has adequate time to respond to her questions.

Creating

- The teacher provides the opportunity to brainstorm by asking the student, "What do you think is happening in that building?"
- On another occasion, the teacher asks the student, "So, if you were going to build that skyscraper, how would you start? What would you start with?" These questions allow the student to think of many possible responses.

Connections to the Real World

- The teacher makes connections to the real world when she asks the student, "Do we have tall buildings like this around Deville?"; "What buildings do we have around Deville?"

This teacher consistently uses strategies that focus on analysis and reasoning skills rather than simply encouraging memorization of isolated facts. The teacher further helps the student connect the ideas in the discussion to the real world, making it meaningful and enhancing the student's ability to integrate new concepts into her everyday life.