

LEARNING EXTENSIONS: HOW TO USE THE TUTORIAL & QUESTIONS FOR TEAM TRAINING

To support programs in meeting professional development needs, we've designed a tutorial and group discussion questions so that you can easily facilitate your own **Invitations To Play** team training. Team training based on the tutorial and Questions for Personal Reflection and Group Discussion will create an opportunity for your team to:

- collaborate and learn together
- discuss issues that are specific to your site
- share ideas, expertise and challenges
- build supportive team relationships
- solve-problems

To develop effective training for your team, we suggest that you (the facilitator):

- preview the tutorial and list the questions
- select questions that are most helpful to your team
- decide how long the training will be and determine the format
- determine how you will introduce the questions and how long you will spend on each question
- think about how you will encourage participants to follow through with ideas and suggestions at the end of the training.

It might be helpful to schedule a follow-up meeting to discuss how the ideas and strategies are working in the program. Enjoy your training and let us know how it goes!



GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How are you already using invitations to play in your program? Reflect and discuss.
2. As a team, discuss how invitations to play can spark children's imagination.
3. List 2 ideas for new invitations to play for each of the interest areas in your program.
4. As a group, take an inventory of all the supplies and materials you already have that could be used to create invitations to play.
 - a. Discuss how you might be able to use them in creative ways to create new invitations to play for the children.
 - b. Make a list of recycled materials or things from nature that you'd like to add to your collection.
 - c. Make a list of items families might be able to bring in to add to your collection.
5. Discuss the benefits of starting simple when inviting children to play.
6. Discuss your observations of the children's play and make a list of interests, strengths, and challenges that you've noticed. How can you use these to create new invitations to play that encourage exploration while supporting learning and development?
7. As a team, list three things you can do to help ensure that your invitations to play reflect diversity and the cultures of the children in your program.
8. Why is it important for invitations to play to be child-directed? (ie: Think about what happens to children's play when we give directions/instructions vs. when we don't give directions/instructions. Can you think of any examples from your program?)
9. List five new ways of presenting your invitations to play that you'd like to try this month. Consider:
 - a. How will you make sure the materials are presented as a group?
 - b. What will you do to inspire curiosity with materials the children have seen before?
 - c. How will you capture their attention and interest?

