

Characteristics of a Reflective Teacher

Reflective teachers...

- Ask themselves questions
- Examine their own practice to plan for improvement
- Collaborate with other professionals to improve
- Consider children's perspectives
- Are eager to gain more perspectives
- Look for details
- Examine the environment
- Are fully engaged in their work

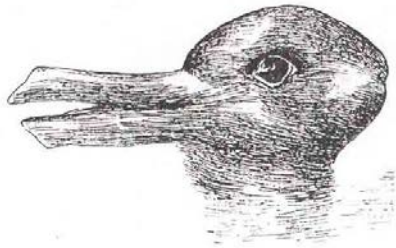
Self-Assessment: Are You a Reflective Teacher?

Think about yourself regarding the following elements of reflective teaching. Respond to each statement by writing *always*, *often*, *sometimes*, *rarely*, or *never*.

- _____ 1. I examine my own reactions to children and their actions to understand where they come from.
- _____ 2. I pause after an activity or at the end of the day to examine whether my practice had a positive impact on children's learning and development.
- _____ 3. I ask co-workers and children's families for their insights.
- _____ 4. I eagerly share stories about children's learning with families and coworkers.
- _____ 5. I have captured my practice on video, viewed it and analyzed my practice to notice strengths and plan for improvement.
- _____ 6. I am curious about children's play and watch it closely.
- _____ 7. I document details of children's conversations and activities and take time to study the notes and photos to puzzle out what's significant about them.
- _____ 8. I read professional literature to learn more.
- _____ 9. I show children photos and stories of themselves to hear their views.
- _____ 10. I use my observations and reflections to change the environment and materials to encourage new play and learning possibilities.

Considering Multiple Perspectives

Look at each of these pictures for a few minutes. What do you see?



In small groups, discuss what each person saw. If some members of your group see different images in the same picture, work together to help everyone see all the possibilities.

- 1) How does this activity relate to your work together?
Why is it important to be open to different perspectives?
- 2) How does this activity relate to your work with young children?
Why is it important to be open to different perspectives?

Adapted from:

Reflecting in Communities of Practice: A Workbook for Early Childhood Educators Paperback – July 9, 2013, pg. 5

by Deb Curtis, Debbie Lebo, Wendy C.M. Cividanes, and Margie Carter