

## GUIDED DISCUSSION PLANS: SAMPLE 3

This discussion, which could span several meetings, helps teachers connect their teaching to children's learning. It should come after the teachers are well grounded in the *Exploring Water with Young Children* approach and are refining their science teaching.

### OBJECTIVES

To better understand how children use representation to reflect their science ideas.

- Recognize children's science ideas in representations where they have used various media.
- Select appropriate media, considering topic and children's diverse capacities.
- Use assessment of children's work to plan next steps.

### CONTENT

Important ideas, video vignettes, and work samples from the two workshops on representation (advanced workshops 12 and 13).

### DOCUMENT MATERIALS

Selected samples of children's work using different media from your classrooms or from workshops.

### SAMPLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Describe:** Talk about samples one at a time. What do you see in this drawing? What characteristics of the drops has Megan focused on with the clay?

**Prompt:** How has she used shape to represent drops? How has she used size? Repeat for several samples, varying child ability or media.

**Analyze children's work:** How do these samples differ?

**Prompt:** What is the evidence for how they differ?

**Analyze teaching:** What have these representation experiences contributed to the children's inquiry? Do these media help children think about the science and communicate their ideas? What other media might be used with these children? How might you use this document in the classroom?

**Prompt:** Have you tried that media? Why do you think it will work here? What specifically would you do? What response would you hope for?

**Conclude:** What does this mean for your teaching? What do you think you will do differently next week? Why? What do you want to accomplish with your children? How will you do that?