

**Kindergarten Matters:
Re-imagining Literacy and Mathematics Throughout the Day
Being in an Inquiry Stance**

[background music]

[Text on screen]: Being in an Inquiry Stance

NARRATOR: Educational researcher, Steven Katz, encourages us to think about learning as a shift in thinking and action. Part of the shift in thinking and action for educator teams is to consider the impact of being in an inquiry stance when offering materials to build on or provoke more complex thinking and learning. Let's listen in to the educators from the previous video segments discussing the thinking that informed the classroom practice just viewed.

[Text on screen]: Re-imagining Learning Materials for Inquiry

[educators sit around a table]

EDUCATOR 1: Well, what I was wondering about was how do you, without always bringing in new materials, how do you use the materials that exist in your classroom now, but change it to change the play that happens with it?

EDUCATOR 2: I think a good example, the other day, we used to keep the materials all sorted into different baskets, and the other day we just said, let's just try this and see what happens.

[Text on screen]: thinking about provoking new learning

EDUCATOR 2: So we put all of the red materials in one basket, all of the blue materials in one basket, where we had never done that before. So, you know, they'd go to the carpet and they want to take all these things with them. So they'd be trying to carry all these baskets. Well now they can take one basket and it has a variety of materials in it, and I think it just gives them more opportunities and more -- they can put more complexity into their creations.

EDUCATOR 3: It's almost, they're encouraged to use different materials because they have them there so they might incorporate them like they would if they didn't have them there, they might not. Like not too long ago, our room had just kind of become, like I said before, stagnant. So, our morning circle was just about how can we use these materials again in a new way? So we got a box of blocks out that the kids had been playing with every day, and I just pulled a pile out and said, "What can we do with these?" And it just happened to be a bunch of blue and a bunch of purple. So it got into patterning. Then they said, "Well, why don't we make a pyramid?" So then we started making a pyramid, and just, I think, them seeing us kind of play with the materials was really helpful because then after that, we said, okay, that's when we challenged them to

choose a material that they might not have used in a while or that they've never played with before. Just go out and look at it and play with it and see what happens. And we've had some of the most amazing creations and questions and discoveries that we've had in a long time.