

**Kindergarten Matters:
Re-imagining Literacy and Mathematics Throughout the Day
Reflections on Learning: Vivian Vasquez and Jerome Harste**

[music]

[Text on screen]: Reflections on Learning: Vivian Vasquez and Jerome Harste

[Vivian Vasquez and Jerome Harste speak to an off-camera interviewer]

VIVIAN VASQUEZ: I mean one of the things that we've talked about, you know, from the start is really how to engage with critical literacies using the interests of the children, using their lived experiences, using their inquiry questions and a lot of times, that doesn't happen from gathering them on the carpet and saying to them what are your inquiry questions. It's more a matter of being a very keen kid watcher and sitting back and listening to the conversations that they're having not just in the classroom but when they're in the cubby room, when they're in the playground, when they're waiting for the bus, when you're walking to the library. So all of those are opportunities to really listen and tune in to what the children's interests might be and then trying to figure out how to negotiate that into curriculum, so how do you then take that and turn it into these learning opportunities in the classroom.

JEROME HARSTE: So the first thing I think that teachers need to do is to value the voices of children.

VIVIAN VASQUEZ: I think a lot of people think that critical literacy or, you know, at least these are some of the conversations I've had with people is, you know, critical literacy, oh that's thinking -- that's about sort of higher order questions, higher order thinking; that's about, you know, thinking deeper. Well, it's not just about higher order thinking, it's not just about thinking deeper, it's about thinking more broadly. It is thinking about thinking deeper, as well, but it's about thinking about lots of different things in lots of different ways so that you are able to make those informed decisions. It's about taking up these issues of, you know, language and power and then imagining how things might be different.

You know, when you're doing the work that you're doing, think about there's lots of things we could be choosing do with children so what are the things that have real life impact and take those up.