

Reflective Questions to Promote Parent Engagement In Early Intervention Services

What are reflective questions?

Open-ended questions that increase awareness of parent knowledge and facilitate discussion to build upon current knowledge.

Components

Open-ended

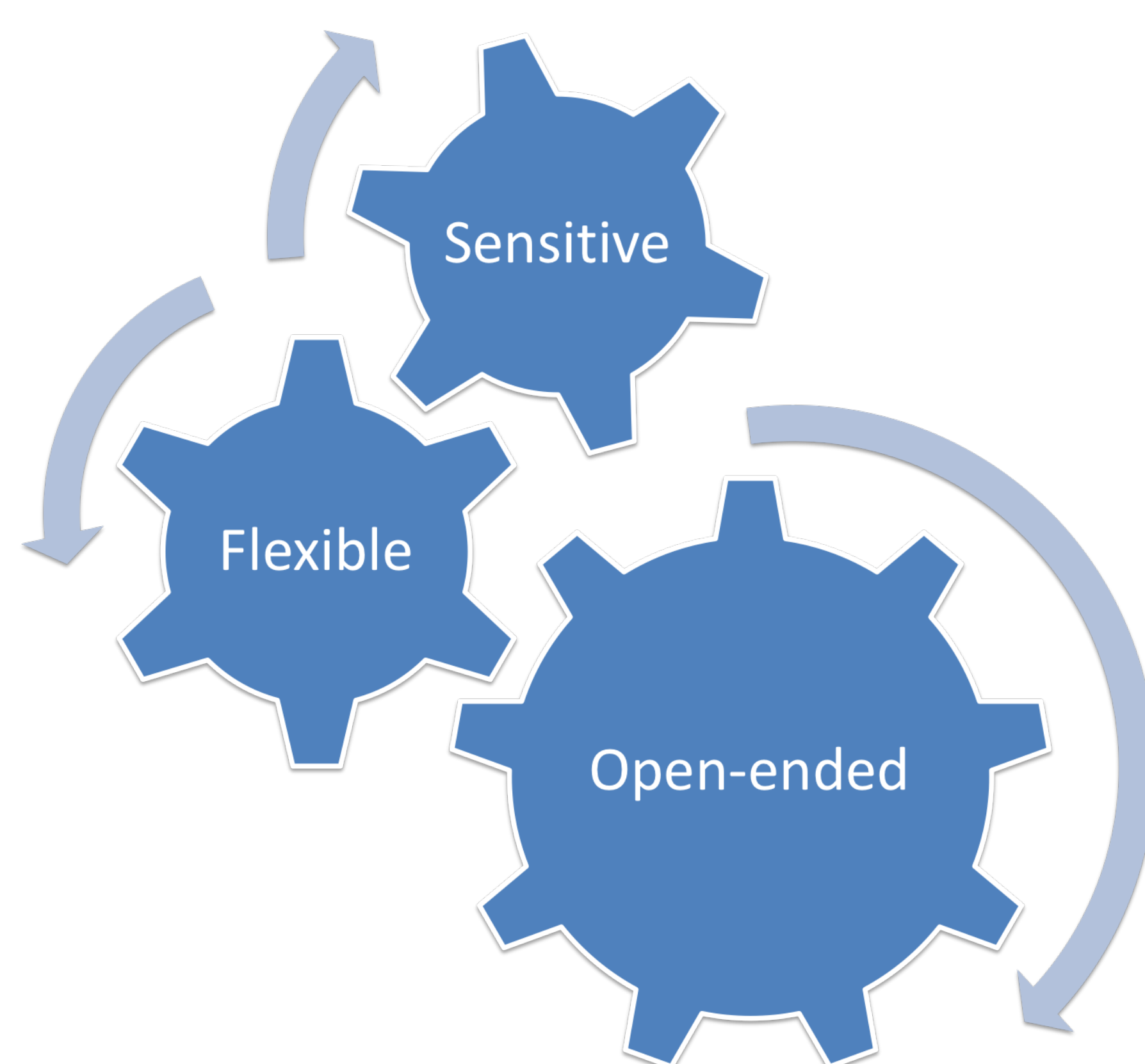
- Prompts connective thinking
- Parents engineer ideas
- Parents take ownership of ideas

Flexible

- No predetermined sequence
- Asked with purpose
- Embedded across the session

Sensitive

- Accounts for timing & phrasing
- Emphasize *how, when, where, who, what* questions



“Tell me and I will forget.
Show me and I may remember.
Involve me and I will understand.”
– Chinese Proverb

Examples

We want to make sure we are challenging his listening skills. What do you know about critical elements?

You are already singing songs to her across the day. How do you think that is helping her attend to people’s voices?

We want to wait to give his brain time to process the sound. What is a sound around the house you want him to recognize?

She has made a lot of progress with keeping her hearing aids on! What strategies have been most helpful in achieving that?

Learning strategies from our sessions, teaching him language, and on top of all that, just being a parent can be exhausting. What support do you need from me to help you stay afloat?

Introduce Topic

Highlight Knowledge

Brainstorm Ideas

Review Progress

Build Rapport

Layout for Implementation During a Home Visit

Purpose	Reflective Question	Rationale
Review joint plan	What went well or seemed difficult with the ____ strategy over the week?	Revisiting the plan reiterates the expectation of practicing between visits and gives the professional insight into generalization.
Review last session	Last time, we targeted ____ using the ____ strategy. How do you feel about building on the ____ strategy or continuing to practice the ____ strategy?	Pinpointing a parent’s comfort level before beginning something new can help with understanding.
Introduce new strategy	What do you know about ____?	Asking what a parent knows about a strategy before giving an explanation demonstrates respect.
Brainstorm ideas	To use the new strategy of ____, we will need to choose a game/routine that allows both of you to take a turn. What is something you guys do where you both get turns?	Using ideas from the parent makes the activity more meaningful to the family.
Coach during activity	What is another routine that we could practice with the ____ strategy?	Practicing 2+ activities with the same strategy within a session can lead to increased generalization outside of sessions.
Review activity	Which option gave us the best result?	Highlighting why each activity worked further can build understanding.
Review Session	We combined a lot of information today! Across all of today’s activities, which activities worked best?	Reviewing the session lets the parent compare & contrast how the session went.
Create joint plan	What is something you would like to continue to practice at home?	Planning can establish the need for generalization.