Observing M^5 in Action: Spatial Thinking

This handout provides questions that help observers notice each of the M^5 teaching practices. It includes questions that apply across ages. Use the questions that work best for the video you have chosen. The video clip may or may not include examples related to each question.

Mutual Learning

- What did (or might) the educator learn about each child during this experience?

- In what ways was the educator responsive to individual children? Consider children's interests, languages, cultures and lived experiences, abilities, and emerging skills and knowledge.

Meaningful Investigations

- In what ways was the experience based on children's questions, interests, or real-world situations?

- In what ways was the experience open-ended? How did this support children to experiment with different approaches to solving a problem or answering a question?

- In what ways did the educator support children's thinking and problem-solving related to spatial thinking?

Materials and Learning Environment

- What did you notice about the materials and learning environment?

- In what ways did the materials and learning environment offer opportunities for children to use spatial thinking?

Math Vocabulary and Discourse

- What spatial vocabulary did the children or educator use?

- In what ways did the educator encourage children to notice and communicate about spatial concepts (for example, by asking open-ended questions)?

- In what ways did the educator encourage children to participate in math discussions related to spatial thinking? Some ways children might participate in math discussion include questioning, describing, comparing, or explaining.

- In what ways did the educator support multilingual learners to use spatial vocabulary and engage in math discourse?

Multiple Representations

- What opportunities did the educator offer children to use spatial thinking in different ways?

- What other learning experiences or materials might the educator offer to continue to build children's spatial thinking?