

## TOWARDS POSITIVE INTERACTION

### Task 1

At your workplace, agree on shifts when a colleague observes and writes down notes about another colleague's interaction with the children. You can write about e.g. the following things:

- open-ended and closed-ended questions aimed at the children
- saying "no" to the children
- positive feedback.

Take turns in making notes and then discuss the observations together. Which children get the most negative reinforcement? What about positive reinforcement? Are there children who get a lot of both positive *and* negative reinforcement? In what situations did you have feelings of success? Did you learn something new about the way you interact?

### Task 2

In the field of equal and gender sensitive education, positive reinforcement is encouraged instead of negative reinforcement. Changing closed-ended questions for open-ended questions – depending on the situation – is also advised. Think about the moments during your typical day at work when you as a work community tend to use negative sentences with the children. Agree on a time of the day when all educators try to avoid using the word "no" for 15 minutes. Discuss the thoughts evoked by the experience at a team meeting. What kind of alternative ways of saying the same thing did you come up with?

### Task 3

Make a list of names and write down – or ask a colleague to write down for you – how many times you say each child's name during one day. Also make a note whether the name is said in a positive, negative, or neutral context. What did you notice during the experiment? What made you feel especially satisfied?

### Task 4

Let a colleague make the same notes as in Task 3 by observing you during a guided activity, for example. Take turns in taking notes and then discuss your observations. What did the experiment feel like? Whose name did you say the most and who received less attention? How did the experiment affect your usual way of working?

