SUSTAINED SHARED THINKING

Sustained shared thinking happens when two or more people work together intellectually to explore an idea, solve a problem or develop understanding. Each participant contributes to the thinking.

WHAT MAKES THINKING GENUINELY SHARED?

A SHARED FOCUS	An idea, question or problem matters to everyone involved.
RECIPROCITY	Adults and learners listen, respond and build on each other's ideas.
TIME TO THINK	Pauses, revisiting and extended exchanges are welcomed.
OPEN POSSIBILITIES	Questions invite reasoning rather than a predetermined answer.
CO-CONSTRUCTION	Understanding develops through contributions from both sides.

MORE THAN ASKING GOOD QUESTIONS

A thoughtful question may begin an exchange, but sustained shared thinking depends on what happens next: listening closely, responding to the learner's ideas and staying with the thinking long enough for it to develop.

Notice: Whose ideas are shaping the conversation? Are we extending the learner's thinking together, or steering them towards our own answer?

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REFLECTING ON OUR CONVERSATIONS

Think of a recent interaction with a learner or small group. Use the prompts below to examine how the thinking developed and what you might do differently.

A CONVERSATION REFLECTION TOOL

LOOK FOR...		WHAT HAPPENED?
STARTING POINT	What question or idea drew us together?	
LISTENING	How did I respond to the learner's contribution?	
RECIPROCITY	Did both of us influence the direction?	
DEPTH	Did we explain, predict, test or reconsider ideas?	
TIME	Was there space to pause, revisit and continue?	

TRY THESE CONVERSATIONAL MOVES

Wonder together: "What do you think might happen if...?"

Build on an idea: "You noticed... I wonder whether..."

Revisit thinking: "Has your thinking changed? What helped?"

ONE CHANGE I WILL TRY

In my next conversation, I will make more space for:

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