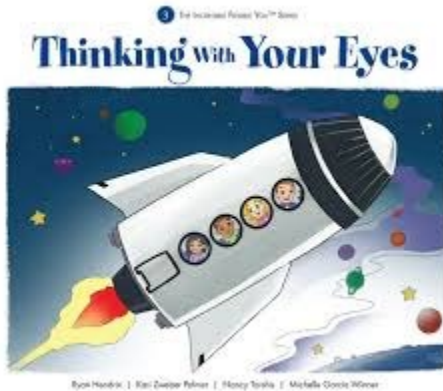


Social Thinking Concept 3 - Thinking with Your Eyes



Why do We Teach this Concept?

We need to teach **thinking with their eyes** so that the children can understand that there is a **purpose** for observing others and the environment. When they learn to think with their eyes it will help them to determine what others are thinking, how they are feeling, and later how to respond. It is more than just looking at something, *thinking* is involved.

Materials:

- Book 3: Thinking with Your Eyes and Unit 3 Plan
- Family Letter and At Home Activities
- Optional Music Activity: Music CD Track 4 “Think With Your Eyes”
- Visuals: thinking bubbles, arrow to show direction of where your eyes are looking

Activities:

- Read Book 3 Thinking with Your Eyes and see Unit Plan handout for ideas on what to discuss at each “stop and notice” icon
- **Binoculars Craft Activity** - use toilet paper rolls glued together to reinforce that we use both eyes to **look and think** about something. You can use these to initially play a “What am I looking at? What am I thinking about?” type activity. We do not want students to rely on binoculars though, so other activities do not need to include the use of binoculars.
- **“What am I Looking at? What am I thinking about?” Smart Guessing Game** - place pieces around the room and look around and *think with your eyes*. Ask the students, “what am I looking at? What am I thinking about?” to see if students can determine the different pieces that you need. Use your thinking bubble, and have students place the item in it after they have determined what you are thinking about with your eyes. You can also have children take turns to indicate what piece they are thinking about with their eyes. This can be done using different pieces of clothing for a dress-up activity, different body parts for Mr. Potato head, or class crafts with multiple pieces. Another idea could be using this activity while on a nature walk in the neighbourhood with the whole class.
- **“Think with Your Eyes” music activity** - students gather in a circle and they play a follow the leader game. “When I look at you, I am thinking about you and it will be your turn to be the leader. Everyone will need to follow the leader’s plan and do the actions that the leader is doing.” Students are required to look at the leader everytime the music stops.

- **High 5s** - think with your eyes to determine who the teacher wants to give high 5s to
- **Ball Toss** - think with your eyes to make sure you are aware of when a ball is coming to you, or think with your eyes to make sure the person you want to toss the ball to is thinking with their eyes looking at you and ready to catch the ball.
- **Fast Practice** - rote sequence activities where one person will start the sequence (e.g. ABCs, counting), then pause and think with their eyes to show who the next person is to continue the sequence.
- **Greetings** - students will need to think with their eyes and show the teacher they are thinking about them during greetings and goodbyes.
- Send home Family Letter with Home Activities

Language to Reinforce the Concept:

After teaching this concept, use these words with your class in everyday activities:

- "I am thinking with my eyes. Who/what am I thinking about?"
- "I am *looking* at [object/person], I am *thinking* about [object/person]."
- Instead of "Look at me," "Eyes on me," "Eyes", use
 - "Okay everyone, thinking with your eyes."
 - "Think about me with your eyes."
 - "Show me you are thinking about me.",
 - "I will do _____ when you are thinking about me with your eyes."
 - "When you look at me, I know you are thinking about me and then we can begin."

Teachable Moments:

- When a student comes to you and asks what they're supposed to be doing, encourage them to, "*Think with your eyes, look around the room, and make a smart guess.*"
 - Prompt them with: "*What do you see? What are your friends thinking about? Where are the kids going? What is the group plan?*"
- During clean-up: "*Think with your eyes - what do we need to clean up? - have we put everything away?*", "*I'm thinking about something that needs to be cleaned up. Think with your eyes to figure out what it is.*"
- Point out times when children are thinking with their eyes.
 - "_____ is thinking with her eyes. She is looking at _____"
 - "_____ is thinking about the group plan to do the craft. He is looking around for the materials. Let's think with our eyes and help him find materials and work on the craft together.
- Help kids practice thinking with their eyes to determine what a person might do next.
 - "_____ is thinking with her eyes about centers. What is her plan?"
 - "_____ is thinking with his eyes about trains. His plan is to play the train set."
- **Reading Books** with "Big & Obvious Eyeballs"- Encourage students to make smart guesses about what the characters are thinking about with their eyes. One example of a "Big & Obvious Eyeballs" book is *Duck on a Bike* by David Shannon.