



Transcript for the [video](#):

## ***Supporting Critical Thinking in Toddlers***

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**Amie Theriault, Toddler Teacher, Child and Family Development Resource Center:** As a toddler teacher, my goal is to really observe what they're interested in. Throughout the day, a lot of them are still very pre-verbal, so it takes some observing and reflecting on my part on what it is that they want to know about and that they want to learn about. And then I go from there. I ask them open-ended questions. You know, "I noticed that you're noticing something. What do you think would happen if..."

**Amie:** Those are called beads. What happens when you shake it? Do you notice anything?

**Amie Theriault:** Scaffolding is huge; constantly scaffolding. Especially during play. I think play is a critical time that they can learn so many skills with problem solving and critical thinking. And sometimes I also think aloud for them. So I talk about what I'm noticing.

**Amie:** Oh, I noticed you're scratching it with your fingernails.

**Amie Theriault:** To get their minds really in that mindset when they're doing things as well. So they can start thinking in those ways, too.