### QUESTIONS THAT ENCOURAGE PROBLEM SOLVING

| 1. Questions that encourage description | What was it like?  
|                                         | Tell me about it.  
|                                         | What happened?  
| 2. Questions that lead to clarification | In what way does this make sense to you?  
|                                         | What seems to confuse you about this?  
|                                         | Can you explain what you mean by that?  
| 3. Questions to identify issues         | What seems to be the trouble?  
|                                         | In what ways does this bother you?  
|                                         | What do you consider the most troublesome part?  
| 4. Questions that encourage looking at the total picture | What led up to this?  
|                                         | What have you tried so far?  
|                                         | What do you make of all this?  
|                                         | When does this usually happen?  
| 5. Questions that encourage exploration | Why do you suppose people do things like that?  
|                                         | How could a person handle a problem like that?  
|                                         | If you had your choice, what would you prefer to do?  
| 6. Questions that encourage the use of information | What information do you need before you decide?  
|                                         | What do you know about it now?  
|                                         | How do you suppose you can find out more about it?  
| 7. Questions that encourage evaluation | How do you feel about it?  
|                                         | What do you think is best?  
|                                         | What are some of the other ways of looking at this?  
| 8. Questions that raise alternatives | What are the possibilities?  
|                                         | If you had your choice, what would you do?  
|                                         | What are the possible solutions?  
|                                         | What if you do..., and what if you don’t?  
| 9. Questions that encourage planning | What do you see as the first thing you have to do?  
|                                         | What are you going to do about it?  
|                                         | Where do you go from here?  
|                                         | What are your next steps?  
|                                         | Where do you think this will lead?  
|                                         | If this doesn’t work, then what are you going to do?  
|                                         | What are some other options available to you?  

Adapted by Mary Zaremba, Early Childhood Network, 2004 from: Mary Clarie Heffron, Ph.D From the “Consultation and Training Team, Child Development Center, Children’s Hospital, Oakland, CA”