

Examples of questions/comments to encourage reflective thinking/collaborative relationship work:

Can you tell me more about that?
Does this remind you of another time?
Have you seen this before?
Have you felt this way before?
What is it like for you to be with your baby?
Do you have any idea what your baby is trying to tell you?
How do you know when he wants fed, (changed, held, played with)?
Have you noticed any times that this has been better? Why do you think it was?
How does your partner feel about this?
Do you think it might help if...?
Why do you think you (or he/she) feel that way?
Can you tell me about your biggest concern this week?
What do you think might be causing...?
What have you tried before?
Do you think you might be willing to try something different?
What makes it hard to... hear him cry, for you to say no, to watch him struggle...?
Do you ever wonder about....?
How does it make you feel when your baby?
Have you thought about...?
What concerned you the most this past month?
How can I support you and your child today?
Is there anything you would like me to find out about, (help with, look for, etc.)

Other phrases to encourage communication/exploration of situation.

I wonder if... (you can tell me more about that visit, etc)
I wonder why ... (you think your child responded that way, etc....)
I wonder where or when (you learned that, you heard that, etc....)
I wonder what (your child is experiencing, thinking, feeling, etc ...
I saw that... I noticed that... I heard that... I am amazed that... I experienced that.... I am concerned that.....
Sometimes a baby likes/needs/wants/shows us/tells us....
I have seen some children respond to...
I can hear that this is really difficult (frustrating, sad, scary, disappointing, exciting, etc.) for you...
I am curious about...
How wonderful, (important, exciting) for you that your baby recognizes your voice, (watches where you go, copies what you do, etc.)