



BRAINTEASERS: FACILITATOR GUIDE

Activity overview: There is no participant handout in this activity. Participants will work with three scaffolding strategies:

- *Provide hints*
For example, make a comment or ask a question to help someone accomplish a task or find a solution to a problem.
- *Give choices*
For example, provide a range of solutions to make it easier for someone to complete a task.
- *Offer resources*
For example, encourage someone to look for additional resources that will help them complete an activity or accomplish a task.



Directions: Prior to the training, gather “brainteaser” materials (3D puzzles, metal ring puzzles, wire puzzles, Sudoku number puzzles, crossword puzzles, word jumbles, Rubik’s cubes, etc.). Post a large piece of paper on the wall.

Set out the brainteaser materials on tables. Invite participants to play with the materials. As groups work on the brainteasers, walk around and give encouraging comments to all participants. With **half** of the participants, use the three scaffolding strategies: provide hints, offer a range of answers, and offer additional resources.

Note: Keep the directions provided by the manufacturers. They can be used as additional resources.

After the allotted time, invite participants to share their comments and answers to the following questions:

- Were these activities new to you?
- Were the activities difficult or easy?
- If they were difficult, what helped you in completing the activity?
- How did you react to the new or difficult situation?
- What did the trainer do (or not do) to help you complete the activities?
- How many activities in a preschool classroom are new to children?
- How do children react to new or difficult activities?
- What can you do to help children?

Write comments on the large piece of blank paper.

Close the learning activity by reviewing the three scaffolding strategies.