**Probing Questions Tip Sheet**

**What Are Probing Questions?**

Are you going to need more information? Are you looking to find a deeper meaning? Perhaps asking a probing question will help you get to the bottom of things. Probing questions are not just about clarifying specific details; instead, these questions dig much deeper than the surface. An effective probing question helps to get a person to talk about their personal opinions and feelings, and promotes critical thinking.

Probing questions are typically open-ended, meaning there is more than just one response. Most probing questions begin with 'what,' 'why' or 'how.' If you want the person you're asking to expand on their response, the use of the word 'exactly,' or the phrase 'can you explain further' should get you there.

**Examples of Probing Questions:** (Find out what the root of the concern is and what routines are interrupted or blocked by a behavior or lack of behavior)

- Why is sitting so important for your son to accomplish?
- In what routines is your daughter “not saying words” problematic?
- How would your child’s increased attention span benefit you or your family in daily routines?
- What daily activities would be easier if your child could walk further?
- Why did you say that helping your child overcome tantrums is the most important change you would like to see happen?
- How does your son not eating impact your day?