

'What Do You Mean' Scenarios

**Possible responses are presented in italics in the brackets. Please use this for guidance as needed. Answers may vary accordingly, but please ensure to direct children's focus to language cues that help them clarify what they mean or ask for clarification when needed.*

Scenario 1

Brian is having difficulty understanding a math problem that Ms. Clarke just wrote on the board. He goes to ask her for help. Ms. Clarke explains the problem to Brian and he is not sure if he really understands her. It still feels very confusing and he is feeling anxious.

- What can Ms. Clarke say to Brian to check if he understands? (e.g., *Does that make sense? Is there anything I can clarify further? What part would you like me to go over again?, etc.*)
- What can Brian say to Ms. Clarke to make sure he gets the help he needs? (e.g., *I don't understand what you mean, can you explain it again? What do you mean by this? Can you please say that again?, etc.*)

Scenario 2

Javinder notices that his friend Melissa seems upset. She avoids talking to him and has a frown on her face. He is not sure why she is upset and is worried she may be mad at him. He decides to ask her at recess. Javinder finds Melissa at the playground and walks over to her, "Hey Melissa, are you okay?" Melissa shrugs her shoulders and says, "I don't know."

- What can Javinder say to Melissa to find out what is wrong? (e.g., *You look upset, can you tell me what is wrong? Are you mad/upset with me? Can you explain to me what is wrong? Did something happen?, etc.*)
- If he is confused by Melissa's response, what can he say to her? (e.g., *I'm not sure I understand, can you say that again? What do you mean by that?*)

Scenario 3

Karen is not enjoying playing soccer these days. Two boys on her team keep picking on her by calling names when the coach isn't watching. One day, she decides to tell the coach and she says, "Andy and David keep bothering me." The coach tells her that she should ignore them and practice far away from them. Karen knows this wouldn't work because she already tried it.

- What can Karen say to the coach to clearly communicate how much this issue is bothering her? (e.g., *Please listen carefully to what I am saying. Do you understand what I am saying? Can you please help me because this is really bothering me. They are bothering me and making it hard for me to play soccer, etc.*)
- How can Karen explain that just staying away from the boys does not help? (e.g., *Just staying away does not help. Can you help me think of another way? Can you speak to them for me?, etc.*)
- What can the coach say to help Karen clarify what she needs? (e.g., *When you say they are bothering you, what exactly do you mean? How would you like me to help you? What can I do to help you?, etc.*)
- If the coach does not respond the way Karen needs even after Karen tries to explain clearly, what can she do? (e.g., *Tell another adult. Keep telling until someone can help her, etc.*)