

Exploring Differing Viewpoints

During a group discussion, different viewpoints will be expressed. When participants state opinions that are different, it can be a challenge to respond to appropriately.

Suggestions:

- Accept all viewpoints without judgment and affirm the participants' willingness to participate.
- Acknowledge that there are differences and that each parent is the expert on their child and will make choices that they feel are best for their family.
- Use reflections to paraphrase or summarize what you heard so the participants have the opportunity to elaborate further.
- Using probing questions to help them further explore their thoughts.
- Ask the group what they have heard or what they think about the topic.
- Helping the participant feel accepted allows the group to explore different approaches or solutions.

Facilitation Strategies



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Examples:

Participant 1: “I think I am going to wean Joey cold turkey and just stop the bottle.”

Participant 2: “Wow, you are brave. I think I am going to just take away one bottle at a time and wean gradually.”

Facilitator: “Thanks for sharing your thoughts. Sounds like there is more than one way to wean. Two ideas are to do it all at once or to take away one bottle at a time. What do the rest of you think?”

Participant 1: “I think I am going to wean Joey cold turkey and just stop the bottle.”

Participant 2: “Yeah, good luck with that.”

Facilitator: “So one idea for weaning would be to take away all bottles at once. And some of us wonder if that will work. What might be the advantages or disadvantages of that method? Or what other weaning options are there?”

