

## Professional Learning

# Language-based Learning in Child and Adult Interactions

## Cars and horses

In this transcript a child initiates the conversation based on an immediate observation. This observation becomes the child's starting point for building an understanding of the relative speed of a horse compared with a car. The child is approximately four-years old.

Child: Do cars go faster than horses?

Mother: Yes (busy driving).

Child: No, look (and points to horses galloping next to traffic jam).

Mother: Not all the time; cars don't go faster all the time, but they can go faster than horses can.

Child: If we have a race.

Mother: Yes, in a race, cars will beat horses.

(Painter 1990)

## Questions

In this transcript the mother provides the child with some information. Is this information available to the child through their observations alone?

What would you say the mother's role in the child's learning process is?