

# PICCOLO PARENT INFORMATION

## PARENTING INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN CHECKLIST OF OBSERVATIONS LINKED TO OUTCOMES

**Affection:** Warmth, physical closeness, and positive expressions toward the child

### **Why is Affection important?**

Affectionate parenting helps children feel close and connected to their parents. This provides a sense of being loved and cared for establishing a positive relationship. With this foundation children develop stronger social emotional skills, regulate their behavior better and feel more confident in trying new skills

### **Ways to show Affection**

- Speak in a warm positive tone
- Smile at your child
- Use positive expressions
- Show positive emotions verbally and non verbally
- Show enjoyment
- Praise your child



**Responsiveness:** Responding to the child's cues, emotions, words, interests, and behaviors

### **Why is Responsiveness important?**

Responsive parents understand what their child needs by picking up on their cues such as sounds, facial expressions, words and movements. When a parent is responsive infants form a secure attachment which provides a sense of trust and establishes an important foundation for social emotional development. This helps the child become confident and curious as well as better equipped to handle stress and maintain positive relationships.

### **Ways to show Responsiveness**

- Pay attention to your child
- Be flexible and follow your child's lead
- Show understanding and acceptance of your child's emotions
- Have back and forth conversation with your child even if it's just mimicking sounds they make
- Make eye contact
- Get involved in the action

**Encouragement:** Active support of exploration, effort, skills, initiative, curiosity, creativity and play.

### **Why is Encouragement important?**

Encouraging parents support a child's efforts to do new or challenging things. This supports the child in developing personal social skills, cognitive development, and build independence.



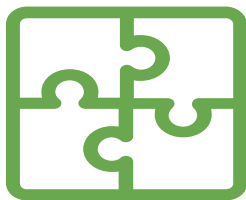
### **Ways to show Encouragement**

- Wait for a child to respond after making suggestions
- Encourage your child to do things on their own
- Offer hints to make things easier without interfering
- Let your child make their own choices
- Be supportive and positive

**Teaching:** Shared conversation and play, cognitive stimulation, explanations, asking and answering of questions.

### **Why is Teaching important?**

Early teaching happens through play and conversations. This influences a child's early language and literacy development.



### **Ways to Teach**

- Explain reasons for things even if they aren't asked
- Say the same words or make the same sounds as your child
- Label objects and actions
- Play make-believe
- Ask for more information about an action or thought
- Demonstrate or talk through the order of steps in an activity so your child can understand why you do things

## **WHY DO THE PICCOLO?**

**THIS TOOL HELPS PARENTS SEE THE VALUE OF SUPPORTIVE INTERACTIONS, IDENTIFIES STRENGTHS, AND GUIDES PROGRAM PLANNING.**