

PICCOLO Parent Information

Parenting Interactions with Children Checklist of Observations Linked to Outcomes

Affection : warmth, physical closeness, and positive expressions toward child

- Speak in a warm, positive tone of voice; show enthusiasm or tenderness.



- Smile directly at the child.
- Being actively engaged with the child.
- Direct positive emotions to the child both verbally and non-verbally.
- Show enjoyment, fondness, and other positive emotions about the child.
- Praise the child; say something positive about his/her characteristics and/or actions.
- Use positive expressions with child like 'kiddo,' 'honey,' or an affectionate nickname.

Why is Affection important?

Affectionate parents express warmth and fondness towards their children. These parenting behaviors help children feel close and connected to their parents and children are then more likely to be compliant and less likely to have tantrums and misbehave.

A parent's affection provides a young child with a sense of being loved and cared for that lays a foundation for a positive relationship. These feelings help establish parent-child relationships that continue to support children's development, particularly their social and emotional development, from early in life through adolescence and into adulthood.

A close relationship with the parent helps the child learn to express feelings, communicate about needs, try new skills, attempt new ways of communicating and develop the self – regulation needed for behaving appropriately even when stressed, anxious, or frustrated.

Most children will misbehave or have tantrums at times, but when a child feels connected and loved he or she is less likely to feel the sadness and anger that can lead to frequent and severe tantrums and misbehavior.

Affectionate interactions contribute to the kind of parent-child relationships that support children's development in all domains.

Responsiveness : responding to child's cues, emotions, words interest, and behaviors

- Pay attention to what the child is doing; be attentive to his/her actions. Look at and react to what the child is doing by making comments, showing interest, and helping.
- Change the activity, or speed up or slow down an activity, in response to where the child looks, what the child says or reaches for, or emotions the child shows.
- Be flexible about the child's change of activity or interest. Accept the choice of a new activity or toy, playing in an unusual way or without a toy.
- Follow what the child is trying to do by responding and getting involved in action and/or verbal encouragement.
- Respond to the child's emotions by showing understanding, acceptance, offering a solution or reengaging the child, label or describe feelings, or provide sympathy.
- Look at the child when they talk or make sounds.
- Reply to the child's words or sounds by repeating what they say, answering questions, or talking about what the child is saying or could be saying.

**Why is Responsiveness important?**

Responsive parents understand what their child needs through the child's cues, such as facial expressions, sounds, words, and movements, and they consistently respond to their children in ways that are helpful. When a parent is responsive an infant forms a secure attachment, which provides a sense of trust and establishes an important foundation for social-emotional development.

Secure attachments help children to be sociable, able to handle stress and maintain positive relationships.

Responsive parenting interactions not only support secure attachment but also often support the development of exploration and communication. When parents are responsive to children's cues, children are more likely to be confident and curious about the world.

Responsive parents let their children take the lead in play, support exploration, and respond to children's early efforts to communicate with gestures and then language.

Encouragement :

active support of exploration, effort, skills, initiative, curiosity, creativity, play

- Wait for the child's response after making a suggestion.
- Encourage the child to handle toys by saying positive things when they show interest.
- Support the child in making choices by allowing them to choose an activity or toy and then getting involved with the play.
- Support the child in doing things on his/her own. Show enthusiasm for things the child tries to do without help, let him/her try before helping, and let the child choose things to be done.
- Verbally encourage the child's efforts by offering positive comments.
- Show a positive response to what the child is doing by clapping, smiling, giving positive statements like 'good job', or asking the child questions about the activity.
- Offer suggestions and hints to make things easier for the child without interfering.



Why is Encouragement important?

Encouragement involves letting the child explore, make choices, and use the beginning abilities of self-control. It supports a child's efforts to do new or challenging things.

These parenting behaviors encourage children to persist or try something difficult or something they have not done before. Parents are encouraging when they help children learn to do things themselves.

Parents can be encouraging when they play together with children and toys. By being a playmate, a parent can encourage the child to lead the play activities by joining in with what the child does in play and by following along instead of taking over.

Playing together in encouraging ways supports children's social skills and their developing cognitive skills.

Teaching :

shared conversation & play, cognitive stimulation, explanations, questions

- Explain reasons for something; answer why questions even if they aren't asked.
 - Say the same words or make the same sounds the child makes.
 - Label objects and actions.
 - Play make-believe with the child.
 - Repeat what the child says while adding something that adds to the idea.
 - Ask the child for more information about an action or thought.
- Suggest activities to add to what the child is already doing but don't interrupt the play.
- Demonstrate or describe the order of steps in an activity so it is clear, even if you don't say exactly what the steps are.
- Talk to the child about characteristics of an object using words and phrases that describe it like color, shape, texture, smell, movement, function, etc.



Why is Teaching important?

Parents' early teaching interactions occur in the context of sharing conversation and through play. These interactions provide cognitive and language stimulation

How much parents talk to their child and how many different words they use will influence a child's early language development. Parents can support language development by frequently labeling things, describing things, asking questions, answering questions, explaining things, telling stories, and sharing books.

Through teaching interactions a parent will support language, cognitive development and emergent literacy, all of which will help their child with school readiness.