



STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN

Choose eight of the strategies listed below. Write down what you might do or say to put this strategy into action with a child or children in your classroom or with a family you are working with:

1. Be attuned to children's cues and respond appropriately.
2. Talk, laugh, sing, and use the child's name during interactions.
3. Make eye contact with the child, when culturally appropriate. Interact with the child at her eye level.
4. Demonstrate interest in children's activities by joining play.
5. Respond to children's vocalizations and language use.
6. Wait for child's response to a verbal or nonverbal interaction before communicating back.
7. Respond to children's actions positively with nonverbal responses that are culturally appropriate.
8. Use a tone of voice that reflects the child's enthusiasm and mood.
9. Show empathy when a child is sad or upset.
10. Acknowledge and accept feelings in a calm tone of voice; help older children name their feelings.
11. Use encouraging words, tone of voice, and facial expressions to note efforts, activities, and accomplishments.
12. Support children's efforts to do things for themselves; stay nearby in case help is needed.
13. Pace activities to match children's attention spans and energy levels.
14. Be attuned to signs that children are bored or interested in doing something else and adult the activity or steer them to something new, as indicated.
15. Continually scan the room to see if a child needs help or attention.