





Supporting Positive Behavior in Very Young Children

How do I do it?

Examples

<p style="text-align: center;">Showing Acceptance/Warmth</p>	<p>Showing pleasure in the positive and okay things that your child does through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Smiling *Positive comments *Excited/happy voice tone *Gentle touch <p>Showing care and concern when your child is upset through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Remaining calm *Concerned expression *Concerned comment 	<p>(smiling, with excited voice) “Wow, you did it!” (Eyes wide open, smiling, “Oh, you like that!”)</p>  <p>(Concerned expression, soft, calm voice, soft pat) “I’m sorry you don’t feel good, you’re so hungry”.</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">Following Your Child’s Lead</p>	<p>Noticing what your child is looking at or doing and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Copying with words, gestures or actions *Commenting on what your child is doing 	<p>(Mom notices positive signal-looking & pointing) “Do you want to see the doggie?” (as she picks child up to see better)</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">Using Descriptive Language</p>	<p>Using words to describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *What your child is looking at *Activities and actions that you and your child are doing *What will happen next 	<p>“Oh, you see the orange kitty. What a furry kitty. That kitty is meowing”. “Yes, that kitty says meow!” (mom says the word when child points and says “k”).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Maintaining & Extending Your Child’s Interest</p>	<p>Noticing what your child is interested in AND using words, voice tone, and actions to make things more interesting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Position him/her to interact with you and/or materials *Move things closer *Show how things work *Use your voice and facial expressions to show interest 	<p>(Mom sees child looking at the phone) she slides it closer and says in an excited, happy voice, “Let’s call grandma”.</p>  <p>She helps child hold phone, and takes turns pushing buttons with child.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Using Stress Reducing Strategies</p>	<p>Noticing when your child is upset (fussy or crying)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Slow down, be calm *Give very short breaks *Use soft, quiet voice <p>Use comforting strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Check & meet needs (wet, hungry, uncomfortable) *For young babies, try swaddling, pacifier <p>Noticing when your child is frustrated or overwhelmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Giving a break 	<p>Dad notices that baby turns away and needs a break from play. Baby starts to cry. After checking for needs, he tries swaddling & a pacifier.</p> 