

3.6 Building Relationships: Storytelling

Question to consider:

How does sharing stories with your friends or coworkers impact your relationship?

Why is storytelling important?

Storytelling provides an opportunity to share experiences and encourages parents to share similar experiences. Stories are a way to store memories, mark time, express feelings, and build relationships. By sharing a story with a parent about his/her child, you help the parent mark time and build memories of their child's development.

Example:

Hi _____ it's good to see you. I wanted to take a minute and tell you a story about (child's name). When we were working on our art project today, I noticed that (child's name) was helping another child cut with scissors. I was so impressed with how patient she was and wanted to let you know what a great job she did.

Story Ideas:

- Developmental marker
- Positive social skill
- Reaction to new activity
- Expressions of feelings
- Funny "happening"

Putting it to Practice:

Share a positive story with a parent about their child. Think of what you hope to gain by sharing the story. Write down how the interaction occurred and anything new you learned from it.

SHARING STORIES IS A WAY TO CONNECT WITH PARENTS AND CONNECT THEM TO THEIR CHILDREN

Steps:

1. Greet parent by name.
2. Mention to the parent that you have a story to tell them.
3. Share a story.

The Outcome:

1. Parents perceive you as friendly and approachable.
2. Parents see you are attentive to their child.
3. Parents are able to share a memory or mark time about their child's development.
4. Parents connect with you on a "feelings" level.
5. You open up the opportunity for parents to share information and ask questions.