

3.7 Creating Partnerships: Valuing the Parent – Child Relationship

Questions to consider:

How do you show appreciation that all families have different kinds of relationships based on family dynamics, culture, size, etc.?

Why is valuing the parent-child relationship important?

The parent-child bond greatly impacts children's early development. The child's relationship with his/her parent affects their sense of security, emotional expression, and their ability to self-soothe.

The Outcome:

1. Children will feel a sense of connection between the program and their home.
2. Children will feel safe and less stressed in their environment resulting in less behavior problems, increased curiosity, and the ability to form healthy relationships with peers and professionals.
3. Children will have less anxiety about being separated from their parents.
4. Mutual respect is established between you and the parent.
5. You create opportunities for parents to share information or ask questions.

Putting it to practice

What are ways you can nurture the parent-child relationship in your program?

BY STRENGTHENING OR SUPPORTING THE ATTACHMENT BETWEEN CHILD AND PARENT, YOU CAN POSITIVELY INFLUENCE THE CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES.

Steps:

1. Become familiar with the parent-child interactions.
Ask about:
 - Home life
 - Daily routines
 - Family expectations
2. Talk to children and parents about foods they like, activities they do together, and important family members.
3. Verbally support the parent to the child:
 - Listen to the child.
 - Reflect back to the child what they shared about their parent.
5. Implement environment ideas that facilitate attachment.
6. Acknowledge parent strengths that support attachment with their child.