

Communicating Effectively With Children



Research suggests that the best parent-child relationships are characterized by lots of positive communication and interaction. Content parents and children communicate on a regular basis about many different things. They don't communicate only when there is conflict. Researchers believe that when adults stay in touch with children through attention and conversation, children may be less likely to act out or behave in ways that create conflict or require discipline.

Effective communication with children requires communication styles and behaviors appropriate to the age of the child. Understanding how children of different ages communicate and what they like to talk about is crucial for rewarding interaction with them. Adults must communicate in a way that relates to the age and interests of the child.

Infants: Birth to 12 Months

- Quickly respond to infant communication (smile a smiling baby, comfort a crying baby)
- Use a sing-song, high pitched tone of voice to help create attention and to keep the baby focused on interacting
- Make the most of time when you and the baby are facing each other (mealtimes, diaper changes) to talk to, sing, or gently tickle the baby

Toddlers: 12 to 36 Months

- Give toddlers one direction at a time and provide warnings before transitions ("We're going to leave for Grandma's house in five minutes!")
- Make the most of daily routines and talk toddlers through routines in the sequence in which they will happen ("First we put warm water in the bath tub... then you take off your clothes and get in!")
- When telling older toddlers what you want, provide an explanation and tell the toddler WHY you want something to happen ("Timmy, I told you to please pick up your blocks and put them away. I don't want anyone to trip and fall.")

Preschoolers: 3 to 6 Years

- Ask questions about past events; probe for details and provide new works to enhance descriptions ("Who did you play with today? What did you do together?")
- Create opportunities for preschoolers to engage in fantasy and pretend play, either alone or with friends
- When preschoolers talk to themselves, let them! Self-talk helps preschoolers focus on what they are doing

School-age: 6 to 12 Years

- Encourage school-age children to talk about their feelings and the reasons for their emotions
- Use conversation as a way to keep up with school-age children's activities, likes, dislikes, and peer relationships.
- When correcting a school-age child's behavior, provide calm explanations for your preferences. By giving a reason, you help the school-age child understand the implications of his/her behavior for others

Few things in life come with so great a reward as effectively communicating with one and other. The world can be overwhelming for child but by paying attention to and regularly communicating with children, you can help children create a view of themselves and the world that is positive and healthy.

Where every child
is a star!

November 2011



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Happy Thanksgiving



Did You Know...?

- Americans consume approximately 675 million pounds of turkey on Thanksgiving
- The average American consumes fifteen pounds of turkey every year
- The turkey industry grosses over \$1 billion in sales each year
- More than 40 million viewers watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade each year
- The United States isn't the only country that celebrates Thanksgiving. A Thanksgiving Day is also celebrated in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Korea, Liberia, and Switzerland
- Cranberries are also called "bounce berries" because they can bounce!

One of the most common traditions of Thanksgiving Day is giving "thanks!" We are thankful that you and your family are part of The Play School family!

In celebration of friendship and family this Thanksgiving, the children will be participating in a Friendship Feast in their classrooms on Wednesday, November 23. Sign up sheets will be on your child's classroom door if you would like to sign up to bring in a food item to share!

From our Play School family to yours,
we wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving!