

Fostering Connections

Tools for Learning Leaders



Use this worksheet to guide your observations in the learning environments to understand the education staff's ability to connect with the children. Use the boxes below to document your observations.

Consider: How are the education staff fostering connections and building relationships with children?

Staff share in play activities with children.

Staff have conversations with children about events and experiences outside of the program.

Staff display a positive demeanor.

Staff encourage children to take the lead during activities and transitions throughout the day.

Staff provide opportunities for children to participate in activities that encourage working together and cooperation.

Staff spread themselves out during play time to be available and to interact with and support small groups of children.

Staff introduce and use emotion and feeling words.

Staff provide opportunities for children to share a book or song from their home.

Staff engage with families to share or learn about the child and their family.

Staff learn and use new words that children speak at home, other than English.

Staff use positive and encouraging language in the learning environment.



National Center on
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

Summer 2023

The National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning, under Grant #90HC0002, created this document. The National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning updated this document for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award, under Grant #90HC00002, totaling \$10,200,000 with 100% funded by ACF. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACF/HHS, or the U.S. Government. This resource may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.