

Objective

The purpose of this activity is for you to think about how you might prepare for a conversation with a family about their child's growth and development. Read the case study about Jonathan and his family.

Instructions

1. Read the following summary of a child's skills in the classroom. In groups of two or three, practice how to reach a shared understanding of the assessment data with a family member. Use the *REAL* framework and script a role play for the discussion between an educator and the family. One member of your group should play the role of the educator.

Jonathan's Story:

Jonathan is 4 years old and enrolled in a preschool classroom. Jonathan often plays with other children in the dramatic play area. He speaks clearly in full sentences, but he sometimes has difficulty communicating with peers. He often seeks out adults to talk to. He tends to move quickly from activity to activity.

Jonathan's family has indicated that they are pleased with his language skills. They notice that he can advocate for himself and that he initiates conversations with adults. While Jonathan does not have many opportunities to interact with other children at home, they note that he gets along well with other children in their church. They have shared that they would like for him to stay focused for longer periods of time. Both parents agree that they spend a great deal of time looking for things to do and activities that will interest him.

Learning Activity: Role Play: Keep It REAL

2. Now role play a learning-focused conversation with Jonathan's family.
 - Ask the family to share their perspectives and observations.
 - Describe specific examples of skills or behaviors that the educator may have seen or recorded.
 - Summarize what is known about Jonathan's skills in conversation and his patterns of engagement.
 - Work together to fully understand the situation and identify relevant next steps.
3. When finished, discuss your thoughts about this experience.

For more information about this resource, please contact us:

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