

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING cont.

- Interact with children in an engaging way during *caregiving routines* such as diapering, feeding, and hand washing.
- Watch infants for signs that they are not becoming attached. For example, a child might become passive, not react to something that would typically upset a child or seem to not thrive like other infants. Talk with family members, administrators, or other professionals if these signs are observed.
- Recognize that fear of strangers and *separation anxieties* are normal stages of *attachment* in mobile infants. Help parents understand that this is normal development and create strategies and good-bye routines to support the child/family through this stage.
- Treat children as individuals by frequently using their names rather than just talking to them as a group.
- Meet children's needs in a timely manner. Provide children with a sense of *security* and trust.
- When reading storybooks, discuss the feelings of the characters and talk about differences, similarities in their appearances, etc.
- Model "gentle touches" for children as they interact with each other.
- Help children make homemade books using magazine pictures or personal photos of people showing a variety of feelings. This could be especially helpful for children who are *non-verbal* or who have language difficulty.
- Engage in meaningful, back and forth conversations with children. Listen to children's interests and ask genuine follow-up questions.
- Celebrate group successes and *collaboration* instead of competition.
- Help children initiate play with other children in positive ways. *Model* strategies to help children enter a group
- ("Can I be a sister?") and give children suggestions on how to join play activities with another child or group of children (sharing toys and play ideas, offering to help or giving compliments).
- Invite children to participate in numerous small-group activities such as cooking and reading together, and in large-group activities such as circle time and creative movement for short periods of time.
- Promote nurturing behavior by encouraging children to help each other, reading books that demonstrate caring and setting a good example.
- Invite family members and people from the community who model caring for others to share their *cultures*, traditions, and talents.
- Take trips to visit people and places in the community.
- Involve children in projects that help the community, such as recycling, visiting the elderly, and collecting food or other items for those in need.