



CAREGIVER CONNECTIONS

Supporting Social-Emotional Development and Preventing Challenging Behavior in Young Children

- Build positive relationships with children and families
- Know each child's strengths and needs
- Implement prevention strategies
 - Greet children and families
 - Listen to their ideas and concerns
 - Display family photos and children's artwork
 - Honor family traditions
 - Play and follow the child's lead
 - Use positive discipline
 - Model and support appropriate behavior
 - Plan to meet children's individual needs

“All behavior has meaning.”

- Understand the reason for the behavior: What is the child trying to tell you?
 - Observe, listen, gather information, communicate and reflect
- Partner with parents
- Help children feel safe, secure and calm – through consistent care, reassurance, routines, positive rules, acknowledgement of feelings, meeting individual needs
- Acknowledge the child's individual interests, abilities, strengths, family life, culture
- Teach social skills and play skills
- Involve all children by establishing group rules for positive behavior
- Notice and reinforce positive behavior
- Teach about feelings
- Modify the environment as needed
- Get support for yourself
- Learn about community and educational resources
- Work as a team with your colleagues



Caregiver Connections at Illinois Action for Children is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

