



Toddler: Teacher Sensitivity

Title: Awareness and Responsiveness with Blocks and Binoculars

In this classroom, the teacher is aware of and responsive to children's individual needs as she plays with them in the block center.

Awareness

- The teacher demonstrates awareness of a child playing with blocks. When his block tower falls she says, "My goodness! It fell down. So you're going to rebuild it?"
- The teacher is also aware of the remaining children playing on the rug. She consistently looks up as she helps one child rebuild his tower.

Responsiveness

- The teacher responds to the child, "So you're going to rebuild it? Yeah, let's see. Let's rebuild it. I'll help you," as she begins to help him rebuild the fallen block tower.
- The teacher validates the child's responses by repeating them and encouraging him, "That is white. Good job, you have a very tall building."
- The teacher responds to the child a second time when his tower falls, "It fell down again. Oh my goodness!"
- She provides individualized support to help the child build another tower, "Look if you set it down on the floor. Yes, set it down on the floor and build from off the floor. Yeah, there you go."

Child Comfort

- The teacher is effective in addressing the brief, peer dispute over a pair of binoculars. The teacher finds another pair of binoculars for the child and engages her with playful comments, "Who is that? What is your name little girl? Oh, that's Raylen."
- The teacher effectively resolves the child's problem; the child begins to play with the second pair of binoculars.
- The children freely participate, playing on the floor with the teacher.

Teachers show sensitivity when they consistently, quickly, and effectively respond to individual children. In this classroom, each time a child sends verbal or behavioral cues, indicating a need for attention, the teacher notices and responds. Teachers who demonstrate high levels of comfort, reassurance, and encouragement to children provide them with the supports they need to actively explore and learn.