



Infant: Facilitated Exploration

Title: Active Involvement during Floor Time Play

The teacher remains on the rug with the infants, actively facilitating the infants' experiences by intentionally guiding their engagement and verbally encouraging their involvement.

Involvement

- The teacher remains actively involved with the infants, talking with the infants, mirroring or joining in their play as demonstrated in the following examples:
 - The teacher initiates the first interaction with Marley to practice standing ("I'm gonna pick you up now, okay." [Marley stands up] "You're learning to stand, because you are a big girl.").
 - Kimber laughs, and the teacher asks, "What is so funny? What is it?" Kimber babbles, and the teacher says, "Oh really, Kimber? Really, Kimber? Wanna come sit with me?" The infant sits in her lap and initiates the first "raspberry" sound with her lips. The teacher makes the same sound, encouraging her continued engagement. Kimber then pulls her finger to her lips while making the sound, and the teacher follows Kimber's lead mirroring her actions.

Infant Focused

- The teacher frequently watches to see what the infants are interested in and follows their lead in her actions or comments. For example, when Kimber touches her ear the teacher supports her exploration by stating, "Did you find your ear?" When Kimber wants to get up from the teacher's lap and change the activity, the teacher allows the infant to get up and guides her exploration by asking her, "Where are you going?"
- The teacher provides adequate time for the infants to explore the toys or activities on their own.

Expansion of Infants' Experience

- The teacher enthusiastically and with varying intonation acknowledges Marley's attempt at standing up by saying, "You're learning to stand up, because you are a big girl."
- The teacher expands Anna-Grace's experience when Anna-Grace holds the toy crab and looks at it. She says, "Anna-Grace has the crab in her hand."

The teacher actively facilitates the infants' exploration with toys and activities through her continuous involvement, following the infants' leads, and expanding the infants' experiences. She uses a "wait and see" approach to interacting with the infants, thus allowing her to build upon or initiate new experiences for the infants.