Responsive Caregiver Strategies to Promote Child Learning
Guide to Responsive Caregiving Strategies

Children learn best when they are engaged in daily routines with people they know. Children have more chances to learn when routines include their interests. This booklet can help you support your child’s learning.

Steps to Help Your Child Learn

1. Watch the cue your child uses to tell you what they like and don’t like.

2. Use your child’s cues to help you choose helpful ways to invite your child into an activity or routine.

3. Use your child’s cues to help you choose ways to engage, keep your child engaged, or re-engage your child in an activity.

4. Once your child is engaged, teach your child something new or help your child practice something they are learning.
**Child Cues**

*Child cues* are the ways your child responds to you and shows you they are ready to learn. Some of the cues children use to communicate with you are:

- Moving to the parent
- Shifting body
- Naming simple emotions
- Using sounds, but no
- Pointing, reaching for, or looking at an interest
- Other

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Cues</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Frowning</td>
<td>- Hitting, grabbing, or biting</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Crying or whining</td>
<td>- Moving away from you</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Smiling/laughing</td>
<td>- Giving you something</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Getting excited</td>
<td>- Using one or two words</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Using sign language</td>
<td>- Using multiple words phrases</td>
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**Invite**

*Invite* strategies are the ways you can tune in and set the stage for learning. These strategies create a space and send messages that help your child feel ready to join in. Some Invite strategies are:

- Smiling/laughing
- Watch where the child is looking
- Gesturing (hugging)
- Using sign language
- Holding hands
- Using one or two word
- Other

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Invite Strategies</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Using multiple word</td>
<td>- Using a sad voice</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Naming simple emotions</td>
<td>- Showing calmness</td>
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<td>- Using an inviting voice</td>
<td>- Demonstrating or modeling</td>
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<td>- Using an excited voice</td>
<td>- Taking the child by the hand</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Using a quiet voice</td>
<td>- Other</td>
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Engage strategies are all the ways you can keep your child going in an activity. Some Engage strategies are:

- Start playing with your child by doing the same thing they are doing.
- Position your child to help them be successful.
- Always respond immediately and positively to your child.
- See your child’s interest or concerns the same way they do.
- Let your child know that you see they are ready to play or do things together.
- Let your child know you understand what they are feeling and telling you.
- Recognize, accept, and name your child’s feelings.
- Listen until your child is finished telling you things.
- Help your child with the most frustrating parts of the activity.
- Let your child know when they has been successful.
- Other ________________________________

Teach strategies are the ways you can help your child practice what he or she knows and learn new skills. Some Teach strategies are:

- Add new activities that let your child practice what he/she is learning.
- Show your child new ways to do things.
- Let your child decide what and how he/she wants to do activities that interest him/her.
- Add things to what your child is doing to help him/her understand and learn new things.
- Help your child practice being responsible when he/she makes a mistake.
- Continue your child’s successful activities to make them last longer.
- Increase how often your child is a part of activities he/she likes to do.
- Use your child’s interests to help him/her be a part of everyday activities.
- Start and wait for your child to respond, to practice taking turns, or finish the task.
- Use your child’s interest to help them figure things out.
- Begin with small steps and gradually increase what your child does.
- Other ________________________________