



Handout 9: Integrating literacy into PIWI Developmental Observation Topics

How I Respond to Others' Emotions

- Have the parent hold up a card with an emotion picture and the word for the emotion written on it. Use mirrors to have the parent and child look at their faces and make the emotion faces (happy, sad, scared, etc.). Have parents point to the word on the card and say the word for the face they are making.
- Have one area of the room designated for calm emotions and have books that parents can read about calming down.

What Materials Help me Play with Other Children

- Include a song or game that includes spelling or rhyming the names of the children in the group
- Encourage parents to provide positive descriptive feedback as their child plays. Example: "I like that you shared your cars with Alexander" "You used your walking feet when going over to play with your friend."

How You Can Help Me Play with Other Children: What you can do and say

- Encourage parents to narrate what their child is doing. Example: "Colin is playing with a car. You like to play with cars too. Should we ask Colin and his mom if we can join them in playing cars?"
- Encourage parents to recognize their child's emotions and label them. Example: "When I walked away you looked for me and got sad when I didn't come back." "You are smiling which shows me you are happy playing with your friend."

What's My Style? Understanding What I Am Like

- Offer different types of books that children may not have interacted with before as one of the materials such as books with different textures, mirrors, etc.
- Encourage parents to narrate what their child is doing while they are interacting with a new toy or experiencing a new sensation. Example: "You are putting your hand in shaving cream and squeezing it between your fingers. You have a curious expression on your face."

What Makes Me Laugh

- Put out silly/funny books as one of the materials that parents can explore
- Encourage parents to use silly voices/sounds when narrating what their child is doing or as part of their play, for example if they are playing with toy animals they can make animal sounds in a fun way to make their child laugh.

Why I Need You

- Encourage parents to talk to another child that is not their own. For young children they can narrate what they are seeing the child do and/or have serve and return interactions (copying babbling, etc.). For older children, they can ask them questions and give them ample time to answer.
- Have two parents trade children and read them a book to see how the child reacts to story time with another parent.

How I Explore my Environment

- Encourage parents to narrate what their child is doing while they are interacting with a new toy or experiencing a new sensation. Example: "I wonder what this toy does. Should we push this button? This toy makes noise when we push the buttons. You are smiling and laughing. This toy makes you happy."

What You Can Do and Say to Help me Explore and Learn

- Recommend that parents pay attention to what a child is most interested in and have them comment on what the child is doing. Example: "There are lots of toy options but you went right to the blocks. You like to build tall towers."
- Encourage parents to provide positive descriptive feedback as their child plays. Example: "You are doing a great job of building a fence to keep all the farm animals in!" "I like that you drew everyone in our family!" "You used gentle hands when you were touching the baby."