

Conversation Starters: Engaging Parents/Caregivers

Reviewing How the Week Went
What went well this week?
What have you tried so far?
What was the most challenging part of your week?
Tell me about how you “refilled his (emotional) tank” this week.
Share with me how you celebrated his successes.
Show me how you did that with him.
Narrating/Teaching While You (Provider) Work with the Child
Do you see how your child did that? That’s a good opportunity to praise him.
See how he looked at you and said “DA?”! That’s your cue to look at him and say “DA” right back!
Let’s follow him into the other room and see what he wants.
I’m suggesting this so that you two can practice interacting and having fun.
Did you notice that when you started texting on your phone, he began to fuss? He really wants your attention!
Asking Caregiver to Practice with Provider Feedback
Let’s trade places, now you try.
Let’s practice.
I like how you positioned yourself – she’s really making eye contact with you now.
You really encouraged him to crawl by calling his name and showing him his favorite toy.
Try it this way.
Tell him or show him what you want him to do.
I like the way you explained that to your child.
When you did that, Mom, he calmed right down.
When you paused before turning the page, she looked up at you and pointed.
When you hold him here he can do it better.
See how he is using both hands together when he tries to imitate your clapping?
I like how you included his sister in this game.
I like how you gave him a choice of things to wear today.
What do you think he is trying to tell you?
How can you help him use words?
How do you know what he needs?
How can you tell he likes this toy?
When you do it this way his face seems to brighten up.
Information Sharing/Giving Feedback to Caregiver
He only has eyes for his Mommy.
When she started crying, I like how you asked her “are you feeling sad?”
When you smiled back at him he became so excited!
He is really using words more since I’ve seen him last.
He really responds to your praise.
You seem to have established a good lunchtime routine and he seems to be eating better.
Do you think he’s frustrated using a regular cup? He might do better using a sippy cup. Do you want to try it?
He brightens up when his sister enters the room.
Getting Feedback From Caregiver
What do you think works best?
How do you think that went?
What do you suggest?
Is there anything else that’s on your mind that we didn’t cover?
Is this helpful?