

Observing Parent – Child Interactions

(Take the room temperature: is it warm and nurturing?/ hot and angry? / steamy and anxious? / cold and emotionless?)
(How does parent handle infant distress/ separation/ autonomy?)

TALK: Bathe your baby in language

- Do parents use “parentese”?
- Do parents use the radio or sports announcer approach to instill language?
- Do parents label objects, use gestures, give directions, play “show me” or “tell me” games?
- Do they sing or use finger games with their young children?

READ: Read together and enthusiastically

- Do parents let their young infants handle books?
- Do they read in a lively engaging manner?
- Do they label pictures or play “show me” or “tell me” games?

ENGAGE: Have fun together *(minimize electronics)*

- Do parents observe and follow their infant’s cues such as vocalizations, smiles or gestures?
- Do they stimulate motor skills by using tummy time or placing objects just out of reach to encourage rolling or crawling?
- Do they provide warm physical contact, smile and laugh, provide consolation?
- Are parents enthusiastically engaged with their young children when playing with toys?
- Do they position the child to access toys? Do they allow their young children to take the lead and allow them to problem solve before jumping in to help?

ENCOURAGE: Be your child’s cheerleader

- Do parents use positive comments and “cheerlead” their young children? (“Yeah!!” “You did it!!”)
- Do parents praise *effort* rather than results? (“You really worked hard on that”)