



Quality Child Care Niagara Community Conversation Café

Positive Interactions through Connecting versus Directing



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Agenda

- Welcome and Network Introduction
- The Connection to Learning
- Simple Ways to Build Connections
- Reflective Questions
- Action Plan

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“Young children experience their world as an environment of relationships, and these relationships affect virtually every aspect of their development.”

- National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, 2004

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The Connection to Learning

- All areas are interconnected
- Emotional, cognitive, and interconnectivity
- Healthy development cannot happen without good relationships
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)
- **Connecting** (direct and meaningful interactions): **Directing** (telling children what do to): **Correcting** (telling children what not to do)

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SERVE & RETURN

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Reflective Question

- What are some ways children experience serve and return interactions to build connections in your program?

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Simple Ways to Build Connections

- Be at the **child's level** for **face-to-face** interactions
- Use a **pleasant, calm voice** and **simple language** while making **eye contact**
- Provide **warm, responsive** physical contact
- Follow the **child's lead** and **interest** during play

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Simple Ways to Build Connections

- Help children understand your **expectations** by providing **simple** but **clear explanations** (not by directing)
- Take the time to **engage** children in the process of **resolving problems** and **conflicts**, rather than reiterating classroom rules
- When children's behavior is challenging and disruptive, think about **where** and **how** they might have more **success** and **redirect** them there

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Simple Ways to Build Connections

- Foster thoughtfulness and caring by **listening** to children and by encouraging them to listen to others and share ideas
- Be **genuine** in acknowledging children for their accomplishments and effort by clearly saying what it is they have done well

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Video Reflection

- What kind of interactions did you observe in the video?

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Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.

Rita Pierson

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“When there is more connection, there is less need for correction and directing... [T]his shift in mindset naturally makes the C:D:C ratio better. As the connection goes up, the other C and D go down.”

— Dr. Jean Clinton
The Power of Positive Adult Child Relationships: Connection Is the Key

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Individual Reflection

- How much time did I spend **Connecting** (direct and meaningful interactions)? **Directing** (telling children what to do)? **Correcting** (telling children what not to do)?



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Action Plan

- How does the flow of the day (e.g. daily schedule, routines, transitions) allow children to make choices (e.g. to engage in in-depth exploration over several days; to relax and do nothing; to reflect on their experiences)?

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Resources

- Think, Feel, Act Lessons from Research about Young Children <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/ResearchBriefs.pdf>
- *How Does Learning Happen?* Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/HowLearningHappens.pdf>
- The Power of Positive Adult Child Relationships: Connection Is the Key by Dr. Jean Clinton <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/Clinton.pdf>
- Alberta Family Wellness Initiative https://www.albertafamilywellness.org/resources/results?search-term=&topic_filter=serve-and-return

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Questions?

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