



Transcript for the video:

## ***Guiding Young Children's Behavior***

### ***Segment 1: Fostering Trusting Relationships***

#### ***TRANSCRIPT for Objective 1***

#### ***Why trusting, supportive relationships are important***

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**Host:** Building trusting relationships is one of the cornerstones of high quality early childhood settings. You probably do this every day in your classroom. Research shows us that all the work you do to build relationships with the children is critical.

**Dr. Jeffrey Trawick-Smith, Expert:** Of course, the most important attachment is between children and their families. But a nice strong attachment to a childcare provider also can have a powerful impact on children's social development and their behavior. One study found that children who became attached to a childcare provider for just one year, it was just for a year, at age four, were found to be better adjusted later in life. They were found to have more friends; they were able to interact with peers in a positive way; their teachers rated them as better adjusted to school, well into the elementary years. So, a message here for childcare providers is that there's a lasting benefit for forming a good, positive, strong bond with children in childcare. In order to form strong relationships with children, early childhood professionals need to understand the things going on at home might be affecting children's behavior in the classroom.

#### **Activity 1A: Factors That Influence Behavior**

**Voiceover:** Now we want you to think about how life situations might affect the behavior of the children in your class. Think about three specific children in your class. What are they dealing with in their home life that might affect their behavior?

#### **Did You Consider...?**

Some examples of family factors that might influence behavior include:

- Moving to a new home
- Having a parent who is absent for long periods
- Parental anxiety, depression or loneliness
- Sudden family changes, such as divorce or a death in the family

- Inconsistency in family routines

**Host:** Building relationships is something you do every day. But there might be times when a child in your class is facing more stress than usual. During these times, your relationship becomes even more critical and you might find the child could use some extra nurturing and attention. Here are some ideas for what you can do to support a child under stress: You can make sure to give the child a special warm greeting when they arrive at the center. You might invite the child to be your special helper when you're getting snack ready or doing some other activity. You could try to take time for a one on one walk with the child on the playground. Or you could have the child sit on your lap as you read a book. You might show a little extra patience when the child is angry or upset.

**Host:** One thing that often causes stress in children is a difficult transition. Let's take a look at how one teacher develops a trusting and supportive relationship with one of her preschool children, as a way to ease her difficult transition.

**Teacher:** Good Morning! Hi Damien, how are you today?

**Narrator:** Moving to a new preschool classroom can be a tough transition. When Damien Hollingworth came to his new classroom, he needed a strong relationship with his teacher, Denise Thomas, to help him through.

**Denise Thomas, Damien's Teacher:** Number one, they're entering into a strange environment. Like I said, people they've never met before, children they've never seen before. I think every child needs someone to count on besides mom and dad. I mean, they need to know that they're safe where they are, and I just want him to know that he's okay as long as he's in my care.

**Savannah Hollingworth, Mother:** He didn't like it too much when he first started. He was scared; he was kind of intimidated I think. In the beginning he- they have the cubbies right by the door- he used to sit on the cubbies for a long time. He was very quiet, very secluded and shy.

**Narrator:** Denise drew on patience and understanding to help build that strong bond with Damien that eventually made him comfortable with his surroundings and his new friends.

**Denise Thomas:** A lot of soothing words; putting my hand out to him and leading the way, and just talking to him. Or like, if I couldn't, he didn't want to come to me, we always made sure someone was up at the front to keep an eye on him. Every once in a while, Damien would express an interest, he'd look at something like he wanted to go join in, but he was scared. So, we would go get his hand, and bring him over to the table and have him join us.

**Narrator:** When teachers build strong bonds with children, it not only helps the child, the parent feel more at ease as well.

**Savannah Hollingworth:** It's very important, at least to me. I mean, I'm sure it is to him to, so that he feels comfortable. But to me, it makes a really big difference because if I can't be there then I would like someone that he trusts that way to be there for him.

**Denise Thomas:** Hi Damien, how are you today?

**Savannah Hollingworth:** Can I have a kiss goodbye?