



Transcript for the video:

Guiding Young Children's Behavior

Segment 1: Fostering Trusting Relationships

TRANSCRIPT for Objective 3

Authentic ways to respond to children

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Host: Another way that teachers build relationships with children is by responding to them. Research has shown that children become attached to adults who respond immediately, authentically, and with enthusiasm to their accomplishments.

Sue Bredekamp, Council on Professional Recognition: I think an authentic response is sort of what the term implies. It's that you respond to a child in a way that's genuine and real and related to the actual situation. Very often we tend to respond to children with sort of empty words or praise like "good job" or "nice boy" or "good girl." And those phrases, while they're okay, don't really relate to the child's specific behavior in an authentic way.

Host: Here is an example of a quick and authentic response: This child has just stated proudly, "Look at my painting." The teacher, with much enthusiasm, immediately responds, "Tell me all about what you painted." Or she might say, "You mixed some of the black and green paint to make a dark green color." These responses will show the child that the teacher is truly interested and will get a good conversation going. Now let's go to a classroom for examples of authentic responses. We are going to see how a teacher responds by engaging children in conversation.

Narrator: Teacher Lisa Wenzel reacts quickly and with excitement to what children in her classroom are saying and doing. She asks questions and engages children in real conversation, rather than using simple, empty praise.

Lisa: All right, what about this side?

Child 1: Arms!

Lisa: Arms! Oooh, Sal, that looks like another airplane. Yes!

Lisa: Whoa! Tell me about it. What do you got here? What's this?

Child 2: That's a big, that's airplane, and another airplane.

Lisa: Uh huh. And what do you have here?

[Fades to new scene]

Lisa: There's our Caroline! Yes?

Child 1: I have some of those in a can at home.

Lisa: You have some of those in what, Sarah?

Child 1: I have some of those in a can at home.

Lisa: You have some in a can at home? You do?

Child 2: Can you watch how I eat these?

Lisa: Sure. Do you like it? I liked it, too.

Host: Now we want you to think about an authentic response you might make when a child shows you his block tower.

Activity 1C: Authentic response

Voiceover: You are in the block area and this child says to you “Look at what I’m making!” What are three different authentic responses that go beyond simple praise?

Did You Consider ...?

Some possible authentic responses are:

- “Tell me about what you’re building.”
- “How did you make that?”
- “I see. What are you going to make next?”
- “Who lives in the house you built?”