



Guiding Young Children's Behavior

Segment 1: Fostering Trusting Relationships

TRANSCRIPT for Objective 4

Benefits of an attachment caregiver

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Host: All children need to develop a bond with their teachers. One way to help children bond is to assign each child an attachment caregiver. This is especially helpful for children who have a hard time bonding with people outside their family. An attachment caregiver is a special staff member who is responsible for checking in with a particular child throughout the day, making regular contact, keeping an eye out, and spending periodic one-on-one time with the child. When programs use this system, each child is assigned their own attachment caregiver. We talked with a program supervisor to learn how the attachment caregiver system works. In her program the attachment caregiver is called a primary caregiver.

Marilyn DeShields, Child Development Center Administrator: Those children who are your primary children are the ones that you are watching for the development. Those are the children you observe consistently, you know, regularly, so you build a bond with them, you build a closer bond with their parents, because when it's time to have parent conferences, then those are the parents that you go to and sit down and speak with them. It helps them to adjust better to the classrooms. For those children who don't or haven't spent as much time in a large group, this really helps them to better socialize, and when they come in and it takes them a while, they know that there's always someone they can go to in particular. Even though they have a group of teachers, they go to one person in particular because they know that he or she is always there for them. I think it's a wonderful program that we have going here and I think having primary caregivers working with the children and parents is probably the best way to go in programs like this, because with our programs in particular the children are transient. It's good for them to have someone to be able to depend on.

Host: The important message of this segment is that children need to become attached to their care providers. This attachment then impacts the adult's ability to guide children's behavior. This concludes the information in segment one. Now let's take a moment to review our objectives. First, we described why trusting, supportive relationships are important in children's development. We identified ways to show warmth using physical and non-physical interactions. We described ways to respond to children in authentic ways. And finally, we discussed the benefits of assigning a special attachment caregiver to each child. You can apply these ideas to your own classroom by completing the ideas into practice for this segment or you can return to the main menu and move to another segment.