



## Coaching for Interactions that are Positive

## Focus of this Video

- Why positive interactions are important.
- What positive interactions look like.
- Coaching strategies for this interaction.



# Why Positive Interactions are Important

- Human relationships are the building blocks of healthy development and learning.
- Caring, nurturing and responsive adults have a positive influence on children's behavior, as they develop:
  - self-confidence
  - positive self-concept
  - sense of safety that can minimize challenging behaviors

Positive interactions with children are an opportunity to inspire good relationship skills so they make and keep healthy relationships with family and friends.

It's also a good way to learn about their lives and understand how they relate to people around them.

## IMPLICIT BIAS

**Unexamined implicit biases toward some students will impact the quality and quantity of interactions with them.**

- Psychologists have found that there's a “magic ratio” of positive to negative interactions between two people for them to have a healthy relationship, one characterized by psychological safety.
- This ratio is 5 to 1—five positive interactions for every negative interaction (neutral interactions can exist as well, but most important is the ratio of positive to negative interactions).
- This research holds true in the classroom as well.
- For children to learn, they must feel emotionally safe with their peers and their teacher.
- Psychological safety can be evaluated in how a teacher interacts with individual students and the whole class on a moment-to-moment basis.

# What Positive Interactions with Children Looks Like:

## Educators engage in:

- Individualized interactions with children
- Warm and positive affection, both verbally and non-verbally (smiling, elbow bumping, high fives)
- Comfortable interactions with children

Educators also model positive interactions for children both intentionally and specifically.



## STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE POSITIVE INTERACTIONS WITH INFANTS AND TODDLERS



Educators engage in the following interactions with children:

- Social play activities such as:
  - your-turn-my- turn interactions
  - rolling a ball back and forth
  - joint attention activities with a child
  - following his lead during shared storybook reading
  - social games such as singing songs, finger plays, and pretend play
- Looking at children and smiling
- Paying attention and listening closely when children talk.
- Show interest in things that are important to each child



# STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE POSITIVE INTERACTIONS WITH PRESCHOOLERS

Educators engage in powerful interactions with preschool children by:

Being present

Connecting with what they're doing and interested in learning

Extending their learning



## Coaching an Educator on Positive Interactions

**Start with a few good questions:**

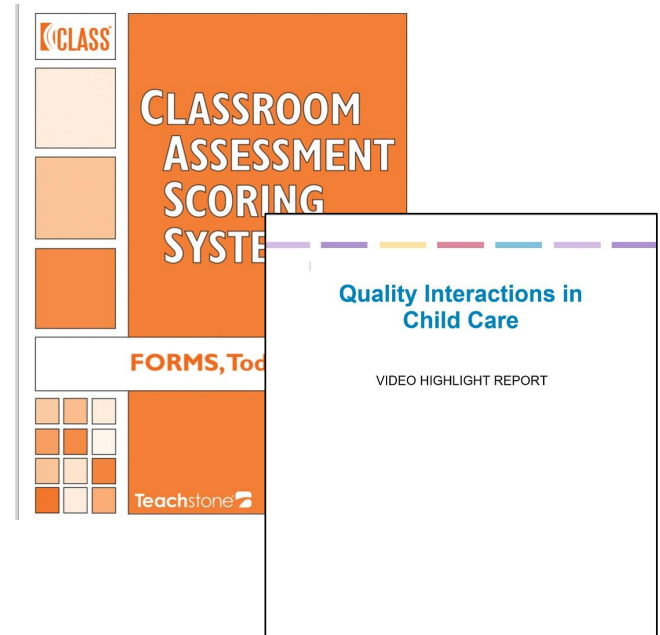
- How do you feel you're doing with engaging in positive interactions with children?
- What do you believe is the most important outcome for children when they have positive interactions modeled for them?
- What makes it difficult to engage in positive interactions with each and every child?
- When did you notice a negative interaction or interaction that could have been more positive with a child?
- What more do you want to know about this teaching practice?



# What Data to Focus On for This Interaction

What to look at:

- “Early Learning Professional-Child Interactions are Positive” and the “Interactions Between Children are Supported” data fields in the QUIC tool.
- “Emotional Support” and the “Instructional Support” sections of the CLASS tools.
- All areas that address individualizing for children.



## Observing An Educator Engaged in Positive Interactions with Children

- You can observe an educator’s practice by doing a focused observation during different times of the day and different activities.
- The focus or measurable component is noticing how and when the educator engages in positive interactions with each child in the early learning environment.
- The exemplar videos illustrate an educator engaged in this teaching practice.

# INSTRUCTIVE SESSION

- Some educators may not understand what it means to engage in positive interactions with children and need more specific information about what it looks like and how to do it.
- You can provide an instructive coaching session to help the educator gain a better understanding of the practice to be able to implement it with children.



## MORE ABOUT AN INSTRUCTIVE SESSION

You can share the different strategies for engaging in positive interactions with infants and toddler-aged children that we covered in this session:

Social play activities such as:

your-turn-my- turn interactions

rolling a ball back and forth

joint attention activities with a child

following his lead during shared storybook reading

social games such as singing songs, finger plays, and pretend play

- Looking at children and smiling
- Paying attention and listening closely when children talk.
- Show interest in things that are important to each child

# INSTRUCTIVE SESSION CONTINUED

Educators engage in powerful interactions with preschool children by:

Being present

Connecting with what they're doing and interested in learning

Extending their learning



# AN INSTRUCTIVE SESSION CONCLUDED

Finally, you can show the informational video and the exemplar videos we shared with you in this assignment that illustrate and explain the practice.

**After viewing the video, ask the coachee:**

- What did you learn in the video about engaging in positive interactions with children?
- How would you ensure that you're engaged in positive interactions with each child?
- What more do you need to know about this practice?