



Coaching for Interactions that Support Child Development

Focus of this Video

- Why it's important to engage in interactions that support child development.
- What interactions that support child development look like.
- Coaching strategies for this interaction.



Why Supporting Child Development is Important

- One of the most important tasks an educator has is to support a child's development.
- Educators have the opportunity to support children to think deeply and make connections to the world around them.
- Educators can help children to develop their higher level thinking skills, working memory and problem solving skills.
- These skills are critical for children to succeed later in school and life.

ALL AREAS OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- Educators provide activities and materials that support children's development in all developmental areas in addition to cognitive and thinking skills:
Language, Gross and Fine Motor, and Social-Emotional
- Educators assess children's developmental progress in all areas of development and look for opportunities to promote their growth.



ASSESSING CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT

Educators are informally assessing children's development all the time through observation but that informal assessment is based on an understanding of child development.

Coaches can work with educators to learn more about how to assess children's developmental level(s) by reviewing and studying:

- Developmental Screening Tools such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and the Denver Developmental Screening Test (DDST-II)
- Developmental Assessment Tools such as the Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG Gold), High Scope Child Observation Record (COR)
- Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs, 4th Edition (DAP)

What Supporting Child Development Looks Like:

Educators:

- Connect learning to the children's experiences
- Expand on children's experiences, actions and ideas
- Support children's critical thinking skills
- Promote children's working memory and problem solving skills



STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Educators can:

- Start an activity by calling attention to a previous activity that the children experienced, in the early learning setting
- Label and narrate children's experiences, actions and ideas
- Help children think in new or different ways
- Ask children to recall an event they experienced recently
- Assist children in problem solving with peers
- Challenge children with developmentally appropriate tasks
- Invite children to explore and investigate new ideas and concepts

Coaching an Educator on Interactions that Support Child Development

Start with a few good questions:

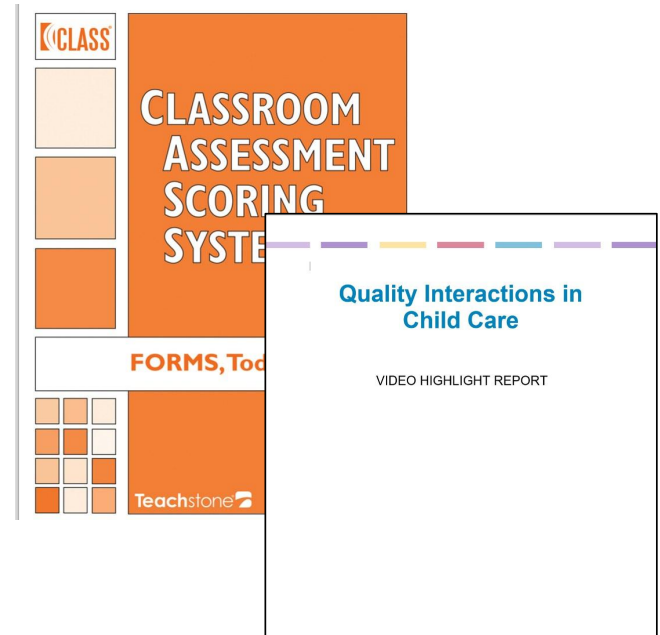
- How do you feel you're supporting children's development? Specifically, higher level thinking skills and making connections to their world?
- What do you think children are learning from the different activities you provide?
- What challenges do you experience in promoting and supporting children's development?
- When do you think the best time is during your day to support children's development?
- What more do you want to know about this teaching practice?



What Data to Focus On for This Interaction

What to look at:

- “Supporting development” data field in the QUIC tool.
- “Instructional Support: Concept Development and Quality of Feedback” sections of the CLASS tools.
- All areas that address individualizing for children.



Observing An Educator Supporting Child Development



- 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 supports children’s development.
- The exemplar videos illustrate an educator engaged in this teaching practice.

INSTRUCTIVE SESSION

- Some educators may not understand what it means to use strategies that support children's development 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.



INSTRUCTIVE COACHING SESSION CONTINUED

You can share the strategies for supporting child development that was covered in this session.

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INSTRUCTIVE SESSION WRAP UP

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 supporting child development?
- How would you implement the seven different strategies for supporting children's development?
- What more do you need to know about these practices?

