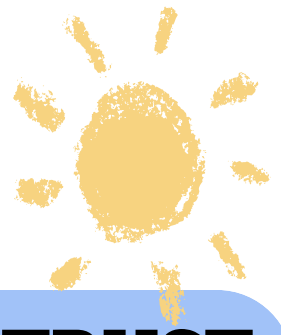


A Way of Being with Children

Practical Tools for Connection, Safety, and HOPE in Early Childhood



COMMUNICATION THAT BUILDS TRUST

Working Together Through Respectful, Consistent Communication

Strong partnerships between families and teachers grow through clear, consistent, and respectful communication. When adults share information openly and regularly, children experience less confusion and more emotional security. Communication is more than simply exchanging information; it is how trust is built. Tone, timing, and intention all matter. When communication feels warm, respectful, and balanced, it strengthens relationships and creates a shared understanding of the child's needs, strengths, growth, and development. When adults communicate well, children receive a powerful message: **“the people who care about me are connected, supportive, and working together.”**

How Communication Impacts Children

Children notice how adults communicate, even when they are not part of the conversation. When communication is calm, respectful, and consistent, children feel:

- Safe and secure
- Understood across environments
- Supported in both their strengths and challenges

Strong communication also models important life skills, including active listening, problem-solving, and respectful expression — skills children carry into friendships, school, and later life.

Trust-Building Communication Looks Like

- Warm, **friendly greetings** at drop-off and pick-up
- **Regular updates**; not only when challenges arise
- **Respectful, strengths-based language**
- **Listening** as much as speaking
- A shared focus on the **child's well-being**



Key Skills for Parents

- 1. Start with Strengths** - highlighting strengths sets a collaborative tone and helps keep communication balanced and solution-focused.
- 2. Be Consistent** - stay connected through small, regular updates rather than waiting until concerns arise. Ongoing communication builds trust, reduces misunderstandings, and keeps everyone aligned.
- 3. Use Clear, Respectful Language** - keep your words simple, calm, and focused on understanding. Avoid assumptions or labels, and describe what you see, feel, or notice.
- 4. Listen with Openness** - be willing to hear and consider the teacher's perspective. Listening without rushing to respond shows respect and strengthens the partnership.
- 5. Stay Curious, Not Critical** - approach conversations with curiosity rather than judgment. Asking questions like “Can you help me understand?” creates space for collaboration and shared problem-solving.

A Way of Being Reminder

Communication is not just something we do, it is a way of being in any relationship. When adults communicate with warmth, respect, and consistency, they create a sense of safety and trust that children feel deeply. These everyday interactions model healthy relationships, build resilience, and support children's success now and in the future.

Everyday Practices in Action

- Share a **highlight from home** (a success, milestone, or positive moment)
- **Ask about your child's day** and invite a positive story
- Use a notebook, text, or app for quick, consistent **updates**
- Let the teacher know about **changes that may affect your child** (sleep, mood, routines, family circumstances)
- **Check in briefly**, even when things are going well
- Ask **open-ended questions** like: "What's working well for my child right now?"

Try This!

- **Parents:** Ask your child's teacher, "What made my child smile today?"
- **Teachers:** Share one positive moment about the child each day
- **Together:** Agree on one simple communication method (notebook, app, email, phone call or text)

Reflection for Parents

- Do I share positives as often as concerns?
- Am I open and curious when listening to the teacher's perspective?
- How can I show appreciation for the work they do?
- What is one small step I can take this week to strengthen communication?

Tips for Success

Keep It Short & Positive - small, meaningful updates are often more helpful and sustainable than long messages. A quick positive note can go a long way in building connection.

Tone Is Everything - a calm, respectful tone helps build trust and keeps communication open, even during difficult conversations.

Communication is a Partnership - both families and teachers bring valuable knowledge about the child. Sharing openly and respectfully supports better understanding and outcomes.

Focus on Solutions, Not Blame - when challenges arise, shift the focus toward problem-solving together. Working as a team helps create supportive, consistent responses for the child.



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