

Instructional Practices

This observation guide provides an easy way for you to think about how you support child learning, what happens as a result of your support, what works best, and what else you can do to support child learning. It can be used to consider your interactions in the classroom with an individual child or with a group of children in an activity.

Just follow these three easy steps . . .

<p>1 First, thinking about a <i>particular</i> classroom activity, identify what you did to support child abilities in that activity. Check (✓) the strategies you used. Note examples in the spaces provided.</p>	
<p>Activity _____</p> <p>Names of child(ren) I supported in the activity _____</p> <p>_____</p>	
<p><i>What responsive teaching strategies did I use in the activity? In this activity, I . . .</i></p>	<p>Examples</p>
<p>Invited Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provided materials that matched the child(ren)'s interests and abilities <input type="checkbox"/> Attended to what the child(ren) was/were doing <input type="checkbox"/> Followed the child(ren)'s lead 	
<p>Responded to Child Behavior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Commented about what the child(ren) was/were doing <input type="checkbox"/> Described in a positive way what the child(ren) was/were doing <input type="checkbox"/> Joined in the child(ren)'s play <input type="checkbox"/> Matched the intensity of my response to the child(ren)'s behavior 	
<p>Encouraged Elaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Used questions or comments that encouraged the child(ren) to elaborate on the activity <input type="checkbox"/> Showed the child(ren) how to do something in a different way <input type="checkbox"/> Added new materials that encourage the child(ren) to use new behaviors <input type="checkbox"/> Physically assisted the child(ren) in a way that supported the child(ren) to do something new 	

Continue on the back of this page.

2 Second, thinking about that **same** activity, identify what happened when you used those strategies. **Check** (✓) how the child(ren) responded. **Note** examples in the spaces provided.

What was the child(ren)'s response? The child(ren)...	Examples
<p>Became Interested/Engaged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Became interested in and enjoyed the activity <input type="checkbox"/> Got engaged with materials <input type="checkbox"/> Got engaged with other children 	
<p>Stayed Engaged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Initiated and maintained interactions with other children <input type="checkbox"/> Persisted and stayed involved with toys and materials <input type="checkbox"/> Persisted and stay involved with other children or adults <input type="checkbox"/> Practiced doing things he or she was (they were) able to do 	
<p>Used New Behaviors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Made more initiations toward people or objects in the activity <input type="checkbox"/> Explored what happens when he or she (they) used a behavior <input type="checkbox"/> Became better at using behaviors he or she was (they were) just learning to do <input type="checkbox"/> Used a greater variety of behaviors in the activity <input type="checkbox"/> Used more complex behaviors in the activity <input type="checkbox"/> Became more independent in participating in ways that are expected for the activity/routine 	

3 Third, decide what worked best and what other strategies you should use to promote child learning during the activity. **Note** your conclusions in the spaces provided.

What did I do that worked best to help the child(ren) stay engaged and learn new things?

What other strategies should I use to help the child(ren) learn new things?