

Guiding Young Children



Presented by:

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Two positive choices:

Two positive choices technique:

“You may choose “a” or “b”, which is better for you?”

Some examples might include:

“Do you want to go to change your diaper (or potty) hopping like a frog or walking like an elephant?” Both choices get the child where you need them to be, and also give the child some freedom.

“Would you like the soap on your right hand or your left hand”?

“Which shoe would you like to put on first, this one or this one?”

It feels rather awkward at first but once you do it a while, you’ll see how much it cuts down on power struggles.

Important! Give the child time to answer! (count to 10 in your head or something). If they say “neither”, keep your face blank and offer them the choices again. It is very important that you do not show frustration or annoyance. If they don’t choose after the third time, then say “If you do not choose, I’ll choose for you”. If they still don’t choose, then choose one of them and go with it. Often times this leads them to say “No, I want to do the other one” which is fine because you got them where you need them to be without escalating into a big issue.

What are some “two positive choices” techniques you can use with your children?

Resources

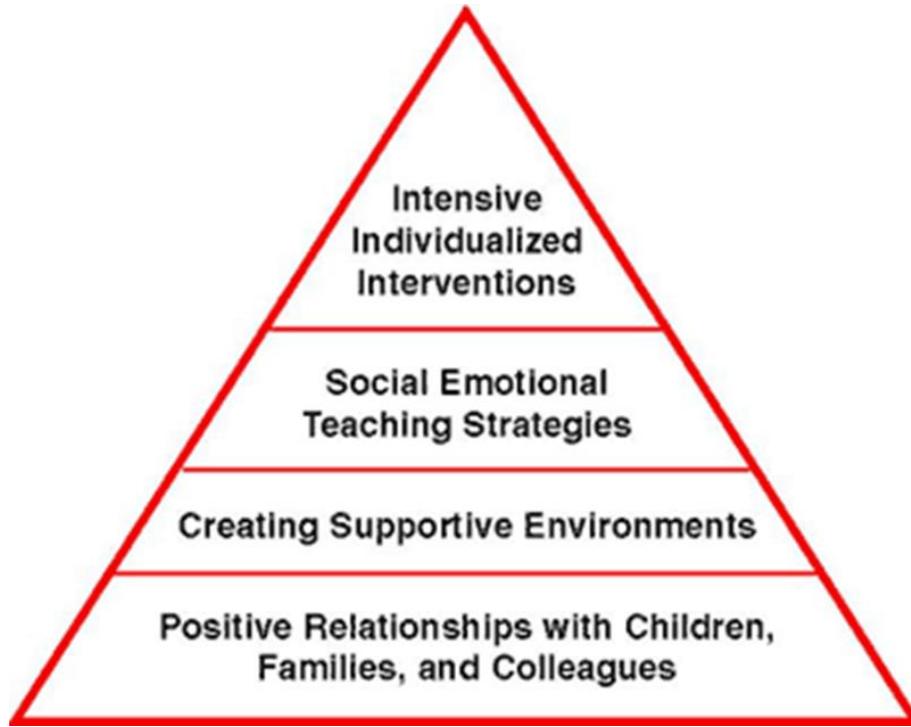
Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning: csefel.vanderbilt.edu

National Association for the Education of Young Children: www.naeyc.org

Developmentally Appropriate Practice, Copple & Bredekamp

Pyramid of Teaching diagram

(From the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning)



Wrap-up Question:

First and last name:

Oklahoma Registry ID number:

Designation: (family child care, center, Head Start, other)

E-mail address you want certificate sent to:

Question: What did you learn today that you want to take back and use in your program?