



A Practical Guide to Promoting Child Learning

INVITE + ENGAGE + TEACH

Children learn best when they are engaged in daily routines. Once the child's caregiver has used *invite* strategies to set the stage for participation within a daily routine, the next step is to engage the child within the routine. *Engage* strategies are positive ways the caregiver can respond to join in with the child. These strategies support the child in knowing the caregiver understands what she is interested in within a routine as well as what she's communicating. When engaging the child, the caregiver should understand the child's interests and skills, and then support the child to be successful. Listed below are some ways that caregivers can *engage* the child during typical activities.



Recognize, accept, and label the child's feelings. By doing this, the child will feel heard and understood. This will help the child engage in a routine longer by knowing the caregiver sees the interest or concerns.



Plan how to help the child be successful in daily routines. As children learn and grow, they need support from caregivers to be successful. Assist caregivers in reflecting on a routine before it gets started and make a plan for how to help the child have success. This could look like considering the child's positioning in a highchair during mealtimes and adjusting as needed to help the child be successful in taking his first bites of food from a spoon.



Let the child know that interests within a routine are understood. Support caregivers in reading the child's cues and recognizing the interests. Caregivers can engage the child by seeing and labeling the child's interests thereby extending the amount of time the child spends within the routine.



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