

Providing Responsive Care



This three-step process can help you tune in to the child and discover his/her likes and dislikes. Creating a relationship that is warm and supportive to the child will impact the way the child approaches learning.

Step One: WATCH

- Begin by just watching, not rushing to do things for the child.
- Watch for both verbal and nonverbal cues.
- Try to see the world as the child sees it.

Step Two: ASK

- Ask yourself “What kind of message is the child sending?”
- Does the child need something from me?
- Ask the child what he or she needs. (Even if the child is not talking yet.)

Step Three: ADAPT

- Help the child discover what he/she likes.
- Watch how the child responds to your actions.
- Modify your actions according to the child’s response.

Also

- Don’t forget to pay attention to your feelings.
- Watch out for your hot spots. Become aware of what frustrates you.