

Volunteers Working with Children in the Classroom - Guidance

Purpose

This document gives helpful tips for volunteers working with children in an Early Learning classroom

Guidance

What you will see in our classrooms and sites

- Children learning by talking and using their 5 senses.
- Children using classroom supplies.
- Children moving around.
- Children working together and on their own.
- Children thinking for themselves.
- Children leading the way with ideas and teachers following.
- Children having fun with adults!

How you can help

- Notice and talk about the good things kids do.
- Accept each child as they are, don't compare.
- Let children try to do things on their own before helping.
- Let children make mistakes.
- Give kids a chance to make choices.

Ways to talk with children.

- Always tell the children what they should do --- not what they shouldn't do.
Say:
 - *"hold your coat so it doesn't drag", instead of, "don't drag your coat on the ground".*
 - *"play gently" instead of "don't break the toys".*
 - *"use a quiet voice" instead of "no yelling"*
- Say:
 - *"Thank you for helping me clean off the table."*
 - *"You did a good job of washing the toys."*
 - *"I like being with you."*
 - *"You should proud of your hard work."*
- We want children to share their ideas and feelings. Let the child know that you are really listening. Let them know that you accept and respect what they are saying.
- Talk with children at eye level. Stoop down to their height, or sit at a table when talking with them