

LEARNING STRATEGIES FOR THE PICCOLO™

The idea of learning the PICCOLO™ may feel challenging at first. However, by allowing yourself to use a variety of learning strategies, you will find that it is not only beneficial as a tool to notice those wonderful parent-child interactions, but it is also a way to engage families, as you point out those special shared moments between parent and child. What person does not want to hear what a great job they are doing as a parent? As with any screening tool, this will take time to learn. Practice self-compassion, be creative and have fun 😊

TIP #1: Partners in Learning

Consider watching the PICCOLO™ training video with someone else. That way, you can share your impressions along the way and process any questions you may have as a team. This will give you the opportunity to discuss what you see in the videos, compare your scoring results with each other, and explain the rationale you had for choosing a certain score. Remember that initially, it is common for your scores to differ from another's, but with time, there tends to be more consensus. You can also ask a UNM CDD Consultant to support you in viewing and scoring PICCOLO™ videos.

TIP #2: Practice, Practice, Practice

The video is set up in sections with 1 minute, 5 minute, and 10 minute clips showing parent-child interactions to score, in both Spanish and English. Give yourself permission to view these clips multiple times in one sitting and on multiple occasions to become more familiar with the checklist of observations (i.e., score sheet) and the determination of scores explained in Appendix C of the PICCOLO™ User's Guide.

TIP #3: Multiple Formats & Settings

When new to the PICCOLO™, it helps to learn by scoring a video instead of trying to score a live session. This allows you to pause and watch certain video clips repeatedly, which will aid in improving your observational skills over time. The goal is to be able to watch entire clips without stopping to score them.

Once feeling more comfortable with scoring, if possible, observe someone else doing a live PICCOLO™ with a family. You could score the PICCOLO™ in that moment and later discuss your impressions with your colleague. Additionally, you could take a colleague/supervisor with you to one of your home visits when you do a PICCOLO™.

TIP #4: Ongoing Learning

The best way to maintain familiarity with the PICCOLO™ is to incorporate ongoing learning experiences into your program. One idea is to allow a portion of your staff meetings to view PICCOLO™ videos of your families to elicit a discussion around what is observed and how to score it. Another idea is use that time to review supporting documents on the PICCOLO™