PARENT-CHILD ENGAGEMENT: GETTING YOUNG CHILDREN READY FOR SCHOOL

CHERYL FEHRINGER, M.A., CCC-SLP

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY

WHAT IS SCHOOL READINESS?

• Is it knowing how to sort colors and shapes?

• Is it knowing letters and numbers?

• Is it knowing how to read?

WHAT IF SCHOOL READINESS MEANT SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT?





Social engagement involves the ability to maintain interactions by responding to and initiating social bids with others (Ingersoll & Dvortcsak, 2019) through verbal or non-verbal means.

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS

(Taylor, Laurel 2016)



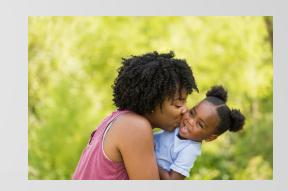
- Self-Regulation
- ❖ Tolerant of Shared Space
- Shared Focus
- Shared Pleasure







NEXT STEPS (Taylor, Laurel 2016)



- Proximity to a Partner
- ❖ Parallel Play
- Joint Attention
- * Reciprocal Exchange







KEY COMPONENTS TO BUILDING SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

(INGERSOLL & DVORTCSAK, 2019)





Imitate Your Child



Model and Expand
Communication



KEY COMPONENTS TO BUILDING SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT - CONTINUED

(INGERSOLL & DVORTCSAK, 2019)



Playful Obstruction









WHEN CAN WE PRACTICE SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT?

- Set up structured playtime
 - o aim for 20 minutes per day
 - o can be broken up into 5 minute chunks.
- ❖ Build it into easy home routines
 - washing hands
 - o mealtime
 - brushing teeth
 - o night time routine

SCREEN USE GUIDELINES

(AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS)



- Until 18 months of age: limit screen use to video chatting along with an adult only (e.g., with grandparents or when parent is out of town)
- Between 18 and 24 months screen time should be limited to one hour a day of watching educational programming with a caregiver.
- For children 2-5, limit non-educational screen time to about I hour per weekday and 3 hours cumulative over the weekend.
- For ages 6 and older, encourage healthy habits and limit activities that include screens.

TURN OFF SCREENS

- During Family Meals
 - Placemat Photos
 - Ask open-ended questions
 - Model conversation
- Driving in the Car
 - Label places you see
 - Ask open-ended questions
 - Narrate directions

- Waiting for Appointments or Meals - Carry a backpack with activities
 - Pipe cleaners
 - Crayons and paper
 - Book
 - Small puzzle
- Bedtime
 - Read a book
 - Listen to soft music
 - Retell the day

REFERENCES

- Ingersoll, B., Dvortcsak, A. Teaching Social Communication to Children with Autism & Other Development Delays – Second Edition (2019)
- Taylor, K., Laurel, M. Social Engagement & the Steps to Being Social: A Practical Guide for Teaching Social Skills to Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (2016)
- Website: https://aussiechildcarenetwork.com.au/articles/teaching-children/using-open-ended-questions-with-children