



Problem-Solving: Teaching Toddlers Social Skills

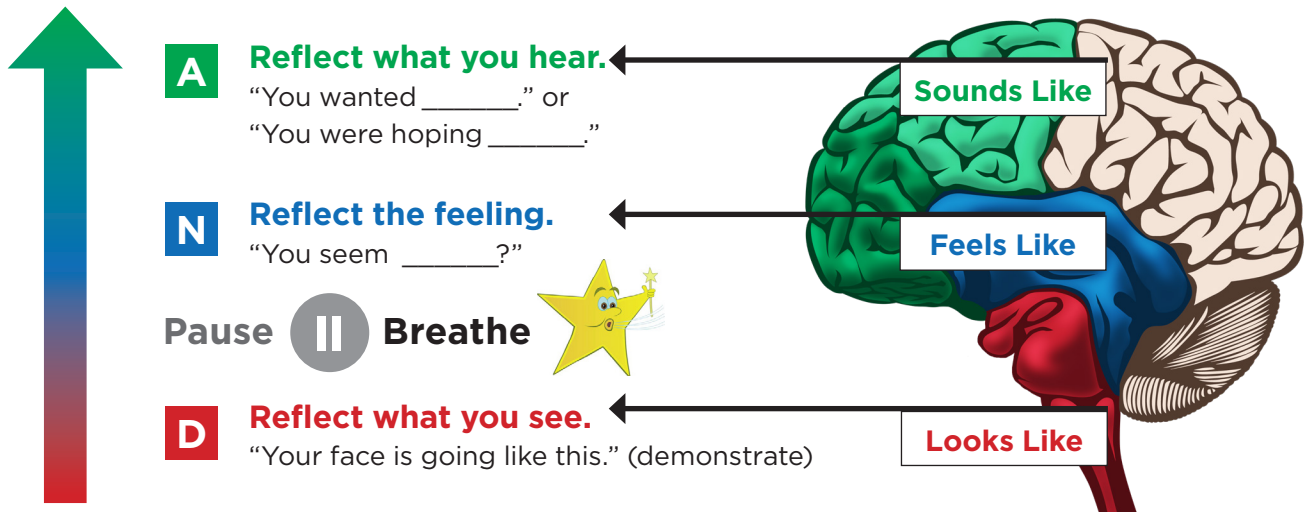
Audience: Infant/Toddler

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STEP #1: Offer Understanding

For infants, our main discipline focus is building a secure attachment through attuned interactions using the D.N.A. Process. Older infants and toddlers are impulsive, which often creates conflict as they begin to learn about boundaries and cause-effect. Teaching social skills and setting limits works better when the adult uses the A.C.T. Process.

D.N.A. Process = Describe, Name, Acknowledge



A.C.T. Process

A = Acknowledge the child’s deepest desire and intent.
 “You wanted _____.” or “You were hoping _____.”

C = Calm by breathing to slow down.

T = Target two positive choices.

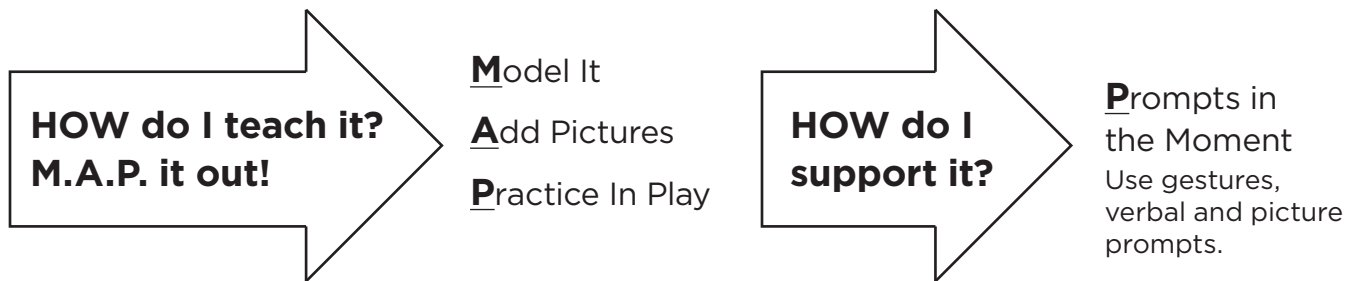
NOTES



STEP #2: Teach

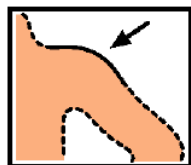
WHAT do I want them to know?

Examples: How to get a friend's attention, ask for a turn, share and take turns, wait for a turn, use BIG Voice to communicate during conflicts, etc.

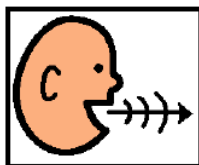


Pictures help you teach the Social Skills.

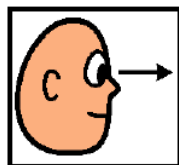
Use visuals like those shown below, but also take pictures of the children practicing the social skills.



TAP WITH ONE FINGER



SAY THEIR NAME



LOOK AT THEM



WHEN and HOW will you PRACTICE IN PLAY?

Examples of WHEN: During free play, in small groups, one-on-one interactions, etc.

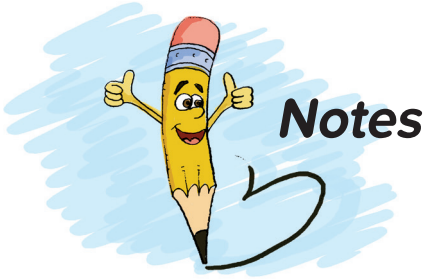
Examples of HOW: Taking turns while playing a game, role playing during pretend play, etc.

My Plan for the First Six Weeks

WEEK	MATERIALS
Week 1:	

My Plan for the First Six Weeks

WEEK	MATERIALS
Week 4:	



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