

# Using communication to impact children's social/emotional development



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOENBAUM FAMILY CENTER



## **When children develop healthy social/emotional skills they develop lifelong skills.**

- These include following directions, developing friendships, labeling feelings, and expressing needs.

## **Communication happens in various ways.**

- Examples include through eye contact, body language, verbal communication, yawning, and a tantrum.

## **Label emotions.**

- Name the feelings as they happen. For example, "You sound really sad. Can you tell me what happened?"

## **Use serve and return messages.**

- Give the child enough time to process the statement and respond to make sure the child's voice is heard.

## **Narrate the scene as it happens and use descriptive language.**

- "You put the block on top of the car. I wonder what will happen next." Be sure to give language as it occurs.

## **Plan intentionally: use the environment to help teach.**

- Add in several materials to avoid conflict.
- Avoid product art but focus on the process.
- Ask open-ended questions.
- Use loose parts and materials that have several purposes.

## **Teach perspective taking learn from others.**

- Learn about the community and children in your classroom. Provide purposeful planning to back their community.
- Ask for resources from the community (what do you want your child to learn).

## **Create a classroom that has a sense of belonging, for example:**

- Include family tree photos;
- Check-in on friends;
- Use familiar language and well-known rules and expectations (language school glossary);
- Create a safe space for all; and
- Focus on diversity and inclusion.

## **Use American Sign Language (ASL).**

- ASL can be used as both another form of communication and a tool to communicate.

