



NUESTROS NIÑOS FAMILY CHILD CARE

PROVIDING CULTURALLY RELEVANT EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SINCE 1982

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How our programs celebrated the Holidays!

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INTEGRATING HOLIDAY CELEBRATION USING A PLAYBASED CURRICULUM

It has been a tradition at Nuestros Niños for home-based providers to use this season as a way to showcase their holiday traditions and incorporate lesson plans that reflected their culture. This year, given our current global pandemic and the implementation of DOE's Let's Play curriculum, our team encouraged providers to find creative ways to continue incorporating their cultural traditions to the curriculum.

During our weekly check-ins, providers shared ideas and suggestions on activities that could easily align with Let's Play. Some created sensory bottles using holiday colors, decorated Christmas trees, cut wrapping paper, dressed up, and shared a holiday meal.



NUESTROS NIÑOS FAMILY CHILD CARE NETWORK HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



Despite all that is going on, our providers were able to share their cultural holiday traditions with their children. They shared food, music, and gifts. It meant a lot to them to have some sort of normalcy in the midst of it all.



Creating meaningful interactions with your child and why they are important.

Resources / Promoting Powerful Interactions Between Parents and Children / Powerful Interactions:
How to connect with Children to Extend their Learning / August/September 2018

By: Ingrid Matias Chungata, M.Ed

"Can I fly?", "I can't get them to stay together!", "Mom, why is the ice melting?" "That is mine," "I don't want it" might be some questions and statements you have heard at some point from the little ones in your life. As children explore their environment, the adults in their lives play a critical role in supporting their developing brain. When caregivers are aware of how crucial it is to engage in meaningful interactions with their child, they will take 5-10 minutes a day of absolute and undisturbed time to do so.

Recognizing that daily activities can become "teachable moments" can make a difference in a child's academic success. Children have an innate curiosity, they are continually trying to figure out their surroundings. This curiosity and desire to learn and master new skills are the initial building blocks of lifelong learners. Your daily interactions with your child are vital in helping them learn about the world around them.

A child's brain is 90% developed by the age of 5 years old. As caregivers, you are their first teachers, helping shape their growing brains. Your interactions with them are an important aspect of their development.

Kristan Steward-Henry and Amber Friesen in their article, "Promoting Powerful Interactions Between Parents and Children", share the Powerful Interactions Framework and how it can create opportunities for meaningful learning in everyday activities. You can use these prompts when your child plays with superheroes, or is coloring, building with blocks, playing with dolls or vehicles. You can easily extend these activities by asking questions and allowing your child to explain what they are working on. Allow your child to select activities/toys they enjoy playing with, let them lead the play, and find ways to add to it by expanding their learning. These priceless moments are essential to help shape and develop their growing brains.

Step 1: Be Present

Step 2: Connect with your child

Step 3: Extend Learning

Here are a few prompts you can use to start engaging with your child to create meaningful interactions:

Narrate the process of what you are doing:

"You need a diaper change! Let's get what we will need... Diapers, Wipes, and Cream."

"I need to make dinner; can you help me find the ingredients we need to make pasta?"

As you become increasingly conscious of the importance of meaningful interactions, you can begin to set specific time aside during your day to spend with your child.

Establishing intentional interactions, setting learning goals, and keeping in mind that these are opportunities where you get to know your child, will support your child's development and establish strong emotional connections with them.

Let's not take time for granted; children's brains are sponges, they're continually learning. Take every available opportunity to engage with your child in a give-and-take of ongoing interactions. You would be surprised of what your child is capable of accomplishing.

Ask open-ended questions:

How did you do that?

Can you tell me what you are making?

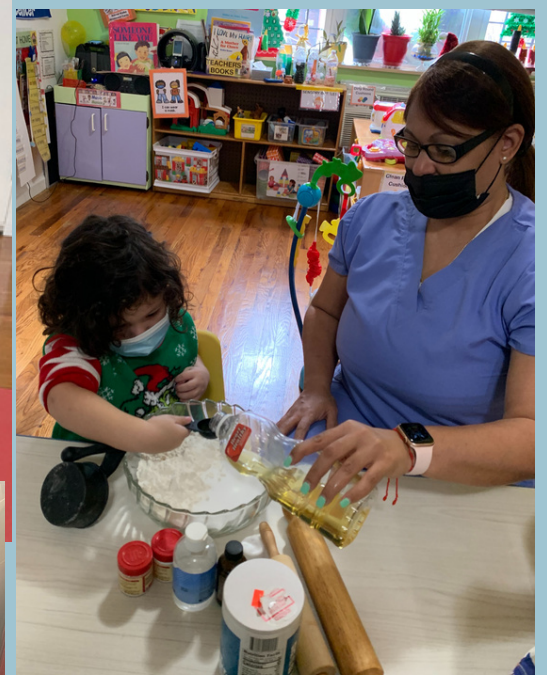
What do you think might happen if _____?

I wonder why?

Can you think of another way?

What can we add?

Our providers engaging in meaningful interactions



What can you do with your child to promote meaningful interactions?

Nuestros Niños Family Child Care Network

The entire FCC team, NYC DOE Department of Early Childhood & our Board of Directors, want to acknowledge our family child care providers for the incredible work you do every day. We know the last few months have not been easy, and understand the many changes you had to make to reopen your home during this pandemic.

For that, we, our families, and our children are forever grateful!

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