

## STRATEGIES FOR POSITIVE INTERACTIONS WITH INFANTS AND TODDLERS

### Do's of Positive Interactions with Infants and Toddlers

- ❑ “Chit- chat”!
- ❑ “Think” out loud!
- ❑ Describe whatever you see.
- ❑ Describe whatever you are doing.
- ❑ Describe whatever infant or toddler is doing.
- ❑ Get infants/toddlers talking to you – A LOT!
- ❑ Comment and wait, comment and wait.
- ❑ When they say anything – respond.
- ❑ Sing songs, read books, do fingerplays.
- ❑ Acknowledge and validate children’s feelings: “I can see you are upset/sad/happy/excited”



DON'T	INSTEAD
Focus attention on children who are doing things you do NOT want them to do (unless it's a safety issue).	Get involved and excited with children who are doing things you like.
Interpret children's behaviors as if they are specifically trying to ruin your day.	Recognize that children behave in ways that meet their immediate needs.
Say phrases like “good job”.	Describe what the children are doing or if you want to praise, say “you did it!”
Speak to the child from across the room.	Get down at child's level next to them and use their name.
Shout, scold, nag, or use a negative tone of voice.	Sing, laugh, smile, play and have fun!
Label children with negative-sounding nicknames, even just for fun or even if the parents use them.	Build on children's strengths and talk about their positive characteristics.
Be afraid to hug and physically comfort.	Show affection in a lot of little ways.
Say negative things about children “over their heads”.	Treat every child with respect.
Threaten!	Give real choices when they exist.