

8. Staff interactions with children are positive and promote the development of critical thinking skills.

8a. Teaching staff is available to participate in activities; read books; encourage exploration, experimentation, and discovery; and to intervene, as appropriate, to encourage or redirect children's behaviors.

Description: The teacher intervenes during a minor classroom conflict to assist children in social problem solving.



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8b. Many times throughout the day, teaching staff spends time talking with children, through individual conversations or in groups, about what they are doing, giving directions, questioning, and elaborating on responses in a positive way. Staff use visual supports to assist in communicating with less verbal children.



Description: Opportunities to teach occur outdoors as well as in the classroom. This teacher supports student engagement and critical thinking by getting down to the children's level to interact with them on the playground.

Description: While preparing to go out to the playground, this teacher converses with the child about the weather, appropriate dress and planned play activities.



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8c. Teaching staff assists children in developing skills needed to use equipment and materials, indoors and out, by introducing information, visual supports, and modeling skills.



Description: By building a positive and trusting relationship, the teacher supports the development of motor skills and self confidence in the child.

Description: Snack time is an ideal time to model and support the development of a number of readiness skills, including self-care.



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8d. Teaching staff promotes reasoning skills, language, and literacy through reading, interactive discussion, questioning, using open-ended questions, art, and other activities.



Description: Teaching staff promotes reasoning skills, language, and literacy through small groups and individual instruction.

Description: On the left, during large group story time, the teacher asks questions to promote critical thinking



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8e. Teaching staff responds to child-initiated questions, observations, and suggestions that occur during activities and uses them to extend learning both for individuals and groups of children.

Description: Teachers are available when children ask them to join play and use this as an opportunity for embedded instruction.



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8f. Teaching staff shows recognition and appreciation of children's thoughts, interpretations, ideas, discovery, activities, and accomplishments.



Description: The teacher praises the accomplishments and discoveries of the children. She takes time to elaborate on items of interest to the children.

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8g. Teaching staff interacts and guides children to help them develop physical and social skills during outdoor time.

Description:

By participating in the child's play, the teacher is able to support the development of play and social skills.



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8h. Teaching staff shows affection by smiling, touching, holding, and speaking to children at their eye level throughout the day, but especially at arrival and departure time.

Description: The teacher genuinely enjoys spending time with the children during outdoor play.

