

Supporting Social and Emotional Development

POLICY:

While promoting school readiness, staff will support each child's social and emotional development through design of the physical environment and a schedule of activities. By doing this, they are building trust, encouraging self-control and respect for the feelings and rights of others, fostering development and supporting each child's home language, culture and family composition.

. This policy relates to Head Start Performance Standards 45 CFR Part 1304.21 (a) (3), 1304.21 (c) (1), 1304.21 (c) (2).

PROCEDURE:

1. Set clear consistent limits, develop rules, post visual cues, and apply them consistently. Review and update rules throughout the year with input from the children.
2. Have realistic, appropriate expectations of children based on knowledge of early childhood development and each child's strengths and needs.
3. Include anti-bias curriculum goals in lesson planning. Provide opportunities for children to:
 - Build trust
 - Feel good *about his/herself*
 - Appreciate and interact comfortably with others who are different from themselves
 - Develop skills to recognize and deal with hurtful attitudes and behavior directed against themselves and others
4. Provide many opportunities for children to initiate activities and make choices.
5. Use goals from Second Step and other available curriculums to address self-control and respect feelings and rights of others (understanding self and others, impulse control and anger management). Document in lesson plans.

6. Help children to make friends and support each child's efforts to renegotiate friendships as necessary.
7. Create space and time for children to interact and work together; games, build with blocks, dramatic play, puppet show, etc. to promote team-building concepts and activities.
8. Provide encouragement and suggestions to enable children to solve problems on their own, complete challenging tasks, and learn from their mistakes.