

WAC 110-302-0325 Creating a climate for healthy child development. (1) When communicating or interacting with children, ONB providers must maintain a climate for healthy, culturally responsive, child development such as:

- (a) Using a calm and respectful tone of voice;
- (b) Using positive language to explain what children can do and give descriptive feedback;
- (c) Having relaxed conversations with children by listening and responding to what they say. Adult conversations must not dominate the overall sound of the group;
- (d) Greeting children upon arrival and departure at the ONB program;
- (e) Using facial expressions such as smiling, laughing, and enthusiasm to match a child's mood;
- (f) Using physical proximity in a culturally responsive way to speak to children at their eye level and with warm physical contact including, but not limited to, gently touching a hand or shoulder, sitting next to a child, appropriately holding younger children close while communicating;
- (g) Validating children's feelings and showing tolerance for mistakes;
- (h) Being responsive and listening to children's requests and questions, encouraging children to share experiences, ideas, and feelings;
- (i) Observing children in order to learn about their families, cultures, individual interests, ideas, questions, and theories;
- (j) Modeling and teaching emotional skills such as recognizing feelings, expressing them appropriately, accepting others' feelings, and controlling impulses to act out feelings;
- (k) Representing the diversity found in the ONB program and society, including gender, age, language, and abilities, while being respectful of cultural traditions, values, religion and beliefs of enrolled families;
- (l) Interacting with staff and other adults in a positive, respectful manner; and
- (m) Encouraging the development of a caring relationship with the environment.

(2) ONB providers must encourage positive interactions between and among children with techniques such as:

- (a) Giving children several chances a day to interact with each other while playing or completing routine tasks;
- (b) Modeling social skills;
- (c) Encouraging socially isolated children to find friends;
- (d) Helping children understand feelings of others; and
- (e) Including children with special needs to play with others.

(3) Weather permitting, ONB providers must offer daily access to unobstructed natural light, including access to direct sunshine, to promote:

- (a) The body's natural absorption of Vitamin D; and
- (b) Healthy mental well-being and emotional development.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.216.742. WSR 23-10-059, § 110-302-0325, filed 5/1/23, effective 6/1/23.]