



The importance of Parent and Child interaction

Raising children is one of the most rewarding and difficult things that you are likely to do in your life. And what makes it even harder is that they do not come with instructions! The opportunity for social interactions with parents is important for the growth of all children. Through social interactions, children begin to have a sense of “self” and to learn what parents want them to do. Social interactions for young children usually happen within the family, but as children grow and develop, they want to play with other children. So it is important that children’s interactions with their parents are positive...parents are their child’s first teachers! When interacting with a parent, children learn social skills, such as sharing, cooperating, and respecting things of others. In addition, young children also learn to communicate and develop motor skills.

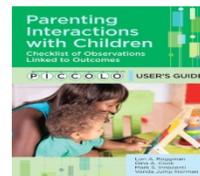
Below are some ways that you can positively interact with children on a daily basis...during this time of the year it is important for our children to have our “presence” and not just “presents”. Our time and positive contact with our children can be the best gift we can give...and it’s cheap! Below are some easy ways to interact with your child in a positive manner on daily basis:

- “Catch” your child in a positive behavior and praise them
- Limit words such as ‘don’t’ or ‘no’
- Teach positive behaviors...instead of telling your child what not to do
- Set limits and expectations
- Teach the behavior you would like to see your child exhibit
- Play with your child as much as your time permits...play is important in a child’s development
- Ask open ended questions and listen to your child by making eye contact
- Read to your child...everyday
- Don’t be afraid to get down on the child’s level...sometimes getting into a chair or on the floor can be better for both parent and child
- Use your patience...take a deep breath, count to ten...don’t take your anger out on the child
- Use the outdoors as a classroom...there is so much to see and do in right here in Brevard

Available books



Disciplining Kids: Without Screaming
and Scolding



Parenting Interactions with Children