



It's a Breeze To Help Your Child Learn!

Try these simple but effective strategies with your older toddler

Many parents are interested in learning about ways to support their young children's learning. When used together, the strategies on this page are effective for supporting young children's involvement in day-to-day activities and helping them learn. The greater variety of these strategies you use when you interact with your child, the more you will notice positive things happening!

What you can do to **engage** your child in day-to-day activities:

- Find out about your child's favorite people, objects, and things to do.
- Give him lots of chances throughout the day to do what he likes to do.
- Allow him plenty of chances to begin and be an active part of day-to-day activities related to his interests.

What you can do to **respond** to your child in ways that will maintain her involvement in day-to-day activities:

- Pay attention to what she can do on her own.
- Let yourself be part of what your child does or says. Shift your attention to match her interests within the activity.
- Respond promptly and warmly to your child's efforts to interact with people and objects.
- Match your response to your child's excitement, attention span, and what she is trying to do or say.
- Be patient while your child tries to do or say something on her own. Give her

plenty of time to participate in activities she enjoys.

- Respond positively to your child with suggestions, comments, questions, gestures, and/or by arranging the setting and materials to help her continue her involvement in the activity.

What you can do to help your child **build** on what he understands, does, and says:

- Encourage your child to build on the ways that he is involved in day-to-day activities he enjoys. In other words, help him try something new or different, but make it related to what he's already doing to be part of the activity.
- Add new materials or arrange existing materials and space to encourage him to use his interests to try something new or different.
- Give your child chances to do just the next step for things he is learning to do (for example, when singing a familiar song, pause at the end of a verse to leave out a word and let him fill it in).
- Show him how to do something differently or try something new.
- Give him just enough help (with holding a toy, for example) so that he can try something new or different. As he gets more practice, reduce the amount of assistance you provide.
- Let your child practice what he has just learned throughout the day.

