

Connection

FIRST

6 tips for safe and effective engagement with children

Get to know each child in your care **1**



Know what each child likes and what they are sensitive to. Understand how their behaviour communicates this.

Acknowledge Feelings **3**

Acknowledge what children are feeling. Let children sit safely with their feelings. Be genuine in your concern about each child's needs. Help the child transition to a safe space or activity by doing an activity the child enjoys.



Stay connected **5**

Communicate positively about the child with parents/carers at drop off and pick up. Share ideas about strategies the child responds well to at home and in care settings.

2 Establish daily rituals

Empower children by creating daily rituals that provide choice and autonomy. Recognise and celebrate culture and diversity.



4 Take a break or ask to sub out

Remain calm when children are expressing strong emotions. If you are not able to give the child time and space to self-regulate, ask another team member to step in. Make sure the child and others are safe before you step away.

6 Keep up to date

Keep up to date with policies, procedures, and training. Use staff meetings to share strategies for responding to challenging situations.

