



Baby TALK Strategies: Supporting Interactions

Narrating Behavior is...

saying what you see when observing any behavior.
e.g. "I notice...", "I see...", "look at how they (*do this*)",
"when (*this*) happened, your child/you did (*this*)"

Meaning Making is...

turning to the caregiver to ask what they think about the behavior we see or the behavior that they describe to us. Pausing allows caregivers to help us understand their own perspectives of their child's development/behavior.
"I see that your child is... What do you think about that?"

Supporting Parental Mastery is...

recognizing any effort, whether big or small, in caregivers' support of their family's well-being, their child's development, and their relationship with their child.
"You knew exactly what he needed when...",
"How did you know to..."

Using Objective Language is...

more like this: "When you (*did this*), I noticed your child...", "When your child (*did this*), you..."

less like this: "I like...", "I love that you...", "You're such a great parent", "Good job!"

Using the Pivot is...

appropriately attending to a crisis/issue shared by a caregiver, then shifting the conversation to include how it impacts the child's development or behavior.

Focusing on Process is...

valuing efforts made by caregivers and children along their chosen path, not their intended destination. These efforts look like a child's repeated attempts to manipulate a puzzle piece to make it fit, or a caregiver's trial and error to establish routines or planning steps to take towards a goal.



Baby TALK Critical Concepts: How We "Are"

Systems Building

A seamless system of care that creates equitable and inclusive access to opportunities for families

Building Relationships

"Trustworthy System of Relationships" : Every level of our work is based on building and deepening relationships

Going Where Families Are

Our approach is to go to families, both physically and emotionally as part of relationship building

Facing Difficult Issues

We are prepared to facilitate hard conversations with parents, colleagues, and collaborators valuing each perspective setting aside any judgement.

Parallel Process

At every level of relationships the same processes occur and the same approach strategies are effective

"Tell me about your baby"

Establishes caregivers as the expert on their child and our openness to to follow the lead of the family

Becoming Ever Better

Professionals and programs reflect on their own beliefs, are open to other viewpoints, and continually seek opportunities to improve their practices

Coming Alongside

Joining families in the task of raising their children while acknowledging and respecting their unique culture

Collaboration

Working together with parents, colleagues, and community agencies toward equitable and inclusive community, program, and family-driven goals