WAYS TO FOSTER A CONNECTION WITH A CHILD

1. Ask questions.
2. Give warm greetings and good-byes.
3. Laugh together.
4. Play.
5. Listen.
6. Validate feelings.
7. Encourage effort.
8. Give affection.
9. Share in activities.
10. Provide support.
11. Remember what a child tells you.
12. Let the child take the lead.
13. Encourage friendships.
15. Create special handshakes.
16. Listen to a child’s favorite music.
17. Incorporate a child’s interests.
18. Get on the floor.
20. Maintain eye contact.
21. Call home for GOOD behavior.
50 WAYS TO FOSTER A CONNECTION WITH A CHILD

1. (Thumbs up)
2. You’re on the right track now.
3. You’ve worked so hard on that.
4. I heard you say how you feel, that’s great.
5. Oh, that turned out very well.
6. That’s coming along nicely.
7. I’m proud of the way you worked today.
8. You’ve just about got it.
9. That’s the best you’ve ever done.
10. You stayed so calm during that problem.
11. That’s it!
12. Now you’ve figured it out!
13. That’s quite an improvement.
15. Congratulations!
16. I love hearing your words.
17. What a superstar you are.
18. You solved the problem!
19. Keep working on it, you’re almost there!
20. Now you have it!
21. Your brain must be working hard, you figured that out quickly.
22. I’ll bet you are proud of yourself.
23. One more time and you’ll have it.
24. Great idea!
25. You’re amazing!
26. Terrific teamwork!
27. Nothing can stop you now.
28. You have such creative ideas.
29. That’s the way to do it.
30. Sensational!
31. You must have been practicing.
32. You handled that so well.
33. I like how you think.
34. Good remembering.
35. You know just what to do!
36. You are really persisting with this.
37. You expressed yourself so well.
38. You did it!
39. I knew you two could figure it out together.
40. Excellent job saying how you feel.
41. I know it’s hard, but you are almost there.
42. Fantastic problem-solving!
43. I love hearing your ideas.
44. I know that was hard for you, but you stayed so calm.
45. Yes!
46. Look at how you helped each other!
47. You finished faster because you worked together.
48. You kept trying!
49. Excellent try.
50. You are a creative thinker.
FILL UP A CHILD’S “PIGGY BANK” EVERY DAY!

Directions: Review the examples from the first two pages of this handout: 21 Ways to Foster a Connection with a Child and 50 Ways to Encourage a Child. Next, come up with ideas for how you will actively build relationships with children and fill in the coins. Consider posting it in a visible spot in your early learning environment as a reminder to make deposits into children’s “piggy banks.”