

SAFE SPACES FOR PLAY

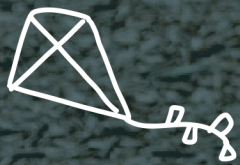
When we are attuned to children's inner, emotional world the whole child can show up to play.



Notice your own assumptions and judgements as they come up. Practice allowing other realities to co-exist with your own.



Listen hard. Talk Less. Be curious.



Provide choices and support self-agency.

DAILY PRACTICES

- Developing **COMMUNITY STANDARDS** with your groups when they begin and come back to them often. "How do we want to be together? How can we look out for each other to make sure we have fun and stay safe?"
- Start each day/session with a **MORNING CIRCLE** and check in with everyone, "How are you today? What would you like to happen today?"
- Facilitate a **PRONOUN CHECK-IN** with your group. Use gender-neutral phrases when addressing a group such as **FOLKS** or **FRIENDS**.
- Have laminated **FEELING WHEELS** or graphs available to facilitate conversations about feelings.
- Provide opportunities where children can **EXPRESS THEMSELVES** (journals, clay, art supplies), take **REGULAR BREAKS** away from the larger groups, and ways to **OPT OUT AND HAVE CHOICES** in an activity or experience if they need to.

QUESTIONING STRATEGIES

"Interesting, tell me more?"

"How so?"

"I've never thought of that before, can you share more?"

"I hear you tell me...(insert), is that correct?"

"I see you're really excited. Would you be willing to come have a quick chat before you continue with that?"

"I hear you, it sounds like you need me in order to... (insert). I have to finish this but you can do (insert) or (insert) while you're waiting for me to come to you."