

# Building Relationships

## This chapter offers these coaching tools:

- ✓ Coaching Considerations
- ✓ Message to Teachers
- ✓ “See” List: Observe How Teachers Build Relationships
- ✓ “Do” List: Help Teachers Build Relationships
- ✓ “See and Say” Chart: Redirecting Teaching Practices—Relationships
- ✓ *The Creative Curriculum* Resources: Building Relationships

The developmental research behind *The Creative Curriculum* shows that children learn best in the context of positive relationships. Because relationships with peers and teachers influence how children feel in school and how they learn, the social climate of the classroom is critical to children’s development. When children have positive relationships with their teachers and peers, they feel safe, secure, and confident in the classroom, and they can focus on learning.

To foster positive relationships in the classroom, teachers

**Establish a positive classroom climate.** Teachers set the tone for the way children treat each other and for children’s knowing how the teacher will treat them and how the problems that inevitably come up will be resolved.

**Build relationships with individual children.** Effective teachers treat each child with respect and acceptance and view all children as competent learners. They encourage children to explore and experiment, and they help children understand that there is usually more than one solution to a problem. Mistakes are viewed as opportunities to learn. As teachers build a positive, respectful relationship with each child, they convey to all of the children important messages about caring communities.

**Help children build relationships with each other.** Teachers help children learn the skills they need to make and keep friends, and they use classroom strategies to support children’s friendships.