

Activity 1.1 Interaction – Voices from the Field



Questions and Considerations

1. According to Dr. McCollum, what are two important things to consider when you are fostering culturally responsive interaction opportunities with children with disabilities?
2. Dr. Banerjee said that children with low-incidence disabilities interact differently from typically developing children. Reflect on two things that you can do to build on these interactions and support their cognitive, social-emotional, or communication development.
3. When caregivers and parents foster protective factors it can lessen the negative effects of maltreatment. What are two interactional strategies Dr. Corr suggested using to help children who have experienced abuse, neglect, or trauma?
4. What are two things Samtra, a parent of a child with disabilities, says you can do to support positive peer interaction?

Possible Responses

1. You may have mentioned that it is important to **learn through observations, who, when, and where the child is most likely to engage in interactions** with adults, siblings, or peers. You may have mentioned that it is also important to **observe the child during different types of interpersonal interactions, as well as across routines and activities**. These observation activities can help you plan culturally appropriate and supportive opportunities and interventions.
2. You may have mentioned that children with low-incidence disabilities usually rely on **inductive learning**. For children with visual impairments, you may want to use concrete materials to teach concepts as they are more reliant on tactile experiences. For children with multiple disabilities, you may use communication devices to help them interact with you and their peers.
3. You may have mentioned that you can encourage peers and other adults to support the target child during challenges by helping the child **think about and consider other people's feelings**. You also may have mentioned that you can help the target child **describe how they feel**. **Consistent interaction** is also important to help build trust and patience in observing, interpreting, and responding to the needs of the target child.
4. You may have mentioned that you have to observe children in their interactions to know how to respond or help other peers **respond positively** so that no one child is excluded from play and other activities. You may have mentioned that you have to **know each child well** (disability or not) so that you can respond appropriately to support the development.