



Strategies for supporting all children in the nursery

Developmental Delays

- Give clear directions, speaking slowly and clearly using only a few words.
- Move the child physically through the task, so he can feel what to do.
- Stand or sit close to the child so you can help if needed.
- Help the child organize her words by providing structure and consistency; for example, label things with pictures and words.
- Avoid changing activities abruptly; allow time for adjustment.
- Teach in small steps.

Speech and Language

- Be a good listener.
- Give directions simply and in complete sentences.
- Talk about what you or the child is doing while you are doing it.
- Have the child talk about what he is doing; ask specific questions.
- Repeat what the child says and add missing words, or ask the child to repeat what you are saying. Build on what the child says by adding new information.

Vision Impairment

- Give specific directions and avoid words such as this, that, over there.
- Call children by their names and address them directly.
- Increase or decrease the room light to avoid glare.
- Use simple, clear, uncluttered pictures that are easy to see.
- Avoid standing with your back toward windows causing a silhouette.
- Encourage hands-on experiences: touching, holding and exploring.
- Ask first if the child needs help; don't assume that it is needed or wanted.

Physical or Neurological Disabilities

- Know the child's strengths and needs to help encourage independence.
- Assist the child with activities she may not be able to do alone, such as kicking a ball.
- Be aware of proper positioning techniques.
- Learn how to use and care for any special equipment.
- Do not be afraid to handle the child – she won't break!
- Help other children understand the disability and stress what the child can do.
- Try to experience the disability yourself to better understand the child's perspective.
- Work closely with other service providers (therapists, psychologists, etc.).

Hearing Impairment

- Know the degree of hearing loss the child is experiencing, where possible
- Learn how to use and care for the hearing aid or other special equipment.
- Support the child socially.

- Be sure to have the child's attention before giving instructions.
- Speak in complete sentences at normal speed while facing the child and smile.
- Use visual cues, such as pictures or gestures, when you talk.
- Encourage the child to let you know by a special signal if she does not understand something you are saying.
- If the child does not understand what you are saying, try rephrasing rather than repeating it.
- Provide opportunities for the child to talk.
- Learn sign language or develop a few simple signs

Social/Emotional Development

- Establish routines and provide structure for the child.
- Use items such as timers, lights or bells to signal the start or end of an activity.
- Do not change activities abruptly and warn the child of changes ahead of time.
- Allow the child to watch new activities or practice them away from the group.
- Sit close to the child and give periodic verbal and physical reassurances.
- Let the child bring a familiar object when entering new situations.
- Help the child make choices by limiting the options.
- Allow the child to have a safe emotional outlet for anger or fear.

Techniques for Managing Behaviour

- Respect the child's feelings.
- Manage your own behaviour and model desired behaviour.
- Prevent problems when possible; look at your schedule and environment.
- Focus on what the child can do; accentuate the positive.
- Follow through with realistic consequences.
- Help the child to verbalize, act, and understand. Clarify statements and feelings.
- Teach the child appropriate behaviour.
- Give the child reasonable choices.
- Ignore negative behaviour if you can.
- Provide developmentally appropriate activities in a safe, nurturing environment.
- Ensure consistency with the family in handling behaviour and consequences.