

Activity: Difficult Conversations

Choose one of the following scenarios and reflect on the following questions:

- What information do you need in order to understand more fully what is happening?
- What questions could you ask?
- What might the provider be thinking or feeling?
- What would you say or do next?

Scenario 1:

You are observing in a home-based care setting and the children have been playing outdoors for about 30 minutes. All of a sudden a preschool aged child has to go to the bathroom so the provider says “It is time to go in right now, line up at the door.” A boy who had been filling a truck with sand in the sand area begins to scream, cry and throw sand. The provider says again that it is time to go in right now and eventually goes over to the boy playing in the sand and takes his hand to bring him to the door.

Scenario 2:

During an observation in a home-based care setting you observe a provider showing a model of a rainbow painting activity. She shows the children the rainbow she has painted with red, blue, green, and yellow, and puts out these color paints. The children seem interested in using the paint, but there is only one easel, so the provider allows only one child to paint at a time. The provider gets out a new sheet of paper and asks one of the children to re-do their painting because it doesn't match the model. The child says they do not want to do another painting, but the provider insists telling them “what will your mother think if you don't make a rainbow like everyone else?”

Scenario 3:

You are visiting a home-based provider and observe that during lunch time children rarely talk to each other and the provider is busy getting everything from the kitchen and putting food on children's plates. One child quietly asks the provider for more pasta and she quickly puts some on his plate with no response all while she is juggling feeding a baby.

Scenario 4:

You are observing in a home-based care setting that includes an infant, two toddlers, and two preschool aged children. One of the preschool aged children asks the provider for paper, markers, and scissors because she wants to create a sign to put on a block structure. The provider is busy feeding the infant at the time that the child makes the request and can't get the materials at that moment. The child has lost interest by the time the provider is able to get the materials for her.

Scenario 5:

During a meeting with a provider at nap time, the provider shares with you that a new parent of an infant has requested that the infant be held to help them fall asleep and that the provider keep the sleeping baby with her at all times while she sleeps. The provider shares with you that she has told the parent that she doesn't think that it is good for babies to be held to get them to sleep and that it is not possible with the multiple-age group to keep the baby with her at all times while she sleeps. The parent is upset and is thinking about removing her child from the provider's care. The provider wants advice about what to do.

Handout 3: Relationship-Based Family Child Care Provider Support

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