Positive teacher-child relationships are important because:

- They influence a child’s emotional, cognitive, and social development
- They help children develop secure relationships with other adults
- They help children develop good peer relationships
- They help reduce the frequency of behavior problems (e.g., tantrums)
- They help children develop positive self-esteem
- They can result in higher rates of child engagement

When interacting with young children, remember to:

- Engage in one-to-one, face-to-face interactions
- Get on the child’s level for face-to-face interactions
- Use a pleasant, calm voice and simple language while making eye contact
- Provide warm, responsive physical contact
- Follow the child’s lead and interest during play
- Help children understand classroom expectations
- Redirect children when they engage in challenging behavior
- Listen to children and encourage them to listen to others
- Acknowledge children for their accomplishments and effort

Positive teacher-child relationships include:

- Consideration of the individual needs and interaction styles of young children
- Consideration of the children’s and families’ cultural, linguistic, and ethnic backgrounds

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