

## Teachers Promoting Emotional and Social Competence in Young Children

## Teacher-Child Social Coaching: Child Developmental Level 2

Children in Parallel Play: Young children start out playing with other children by sitting next to them and engaging in parallel play. In the beginning they do not initiate interactions with other children or seem to notice they are even there. They may not talk to them or offer an idea or interact with them in any way. Teachers can help promote peer play by prompting their students to use social skills or to notice their friends' activities or moods. Providing children with the actual words for interactions, or modeling social behaviors will be important, since children may not yet have these skills in their repertoire.

Social/Friendship Skills	Examples
Teacher Coaches:	
❖ Asking for What They Want	"You can ask your friend for what you want by saying, 'Please can I have the crayon?""
❖ Asking for Help	"You can ask your friend for help by saying, 'Can you help me?' "
❖ Asking a Friend to Wait	"You can tell your friend you are not ready to share yet."
	If your student responds to your prompt by using his or her words to repeat what you said, praise this polite asking or friendly helping.
Teacher Prompting:	
❖ Noticing Other Child	"Wow, look what a big tower your friend is building."
	"You are both using green markers."
Initiate Interaction with Other Child	"Your friend is looking for small green pieces. Can you find some for him?"
	"Your friend has no cars, and you have 8 cars. He looks unhappy. Can you share one of your cars with your friend?"
To Give Child a Compliment	"Wow! You can tell your friend his tower is cool."
	If your student does repeat this, you can praise him for a friendly compliment. If child does not respond, continue descriptive commenting.
Teacher Praising:	
❖ Behavior-to-Feelings	"You shared with your friend, that is so friendly and makes her feel happy."
	"You helped your friend figure out how to do that, she looks very pleased with your help."
❖ Playing Together	"Your friend is enjoying playing these Legos with you. You look like you are having fun with your friend. You are both very friendly."
Puppet or Action Figure Model	s:
❖ Sharing or Helping	"Wow! Do you see the tower that Nancy is building?"
	"Can either of you help me find a red block to make this truck?"
	"Could I help you build that house?"
	"Do you think we could ask Freddy if he'll share his train?"