

I have positive expectations for the children who are in our care within the classroom. I will model five of the basic ingredients I believe are needed to build positive relationships between adults and children, as well as among children.

**Mutual Respect**

I will demonstrate respect for the children’s skills, attitudes and feelings. I will use words that minimize the negative and emphasize the positives. We, as a class, will model respect.

**Enjoyment**

Because I understand the stages of growth and development of young children, I am able to share with them the joy of their ever-changing skills and abilities, their needs and their ideas. Social, emotional, and physical growth in children is truly a miracle to behold. I will enjoy the children and their journey through discovery, learning, growth and accomplishment.

**Encouragement**

I believe in children’s innate goodness and true zest for learning. I will provide the environment that encourages them to explore, learn, and to grow naturally. Children enjoy hard work, play, and success. I will tell the children when they do a good job and encourage them when they get discouraged. I believe that all children can be successful and all children will be successful in my classroom. Incentives and kind gestures will be motivators for success.

**Communication and Loving Care**

The most enjoyable ingredient in building a positive relationship is love. Children are seldom deceived about the feelings of approval and love and are constantly being communicated in every word, touch, and expression. Children are the most giving of love. As adults, we find it easy, in a setting devised for children’s learning success, to express love and caring back to them through, understanding and warmth.

**Respect for Personal Feelings**

I will allow the children to have their own feelings. Even when young children behave in a way that is difficult, I will not attempt to tell them how they should feel. I will tell them what is expected in behavior. I will let them know that I understand their feelings, but **do** expect their behavior to change when it is negative and is impacting their own or others learning and/or safety.

Because all children feel/show frustrations or anger, I will give them a “safe spot” when they find themselves in a non-win situation. After a few minutes at a quiet place, I will help them find the words, the plan, or the activity that helps them regain self-control and/or a way to rejoin the class successfully. I want to ensure that the students are gaining the tools to learn control and to successfully deal with their feelings and actions.

**Parents and Discipline**

I believe that home and school together form a positive support system for the growing child. Parents will be kept informed on their child’s progress.