

Developing and Maintaining Responsive Relationships With Children and Families



Developing and maintaining responsive relationships with children and families is at the heart of early learning and care. When early learning and care providers engage in reciprocal relationships with families, they are better equipped to authentically and effectively support children's development and learning. This module series offers an in-depth exploration of what it means to be in relationships with children and their families.

Consider this module series if you have the following interests:

- Strengthening your emotional intelligence
- Understanding how your personal beliefs, values, biases, and cultural ways of being influence how you interact and relate to children and families
- Developing meaningful partnerships with families
- Improving your ability to handle difficult situations, including miscommunications and conflict
- Understanding what children's behaviors communicate

Why This Module Series Is Unique

- Encourages learners to reflect on their own lived experience and cultural ways of being.
- Supports learners to examine how lived experience and cultural ways of being impact relationships.
- Uses storytelling to make meaningful connections between common daily caregiving experiences and practical strategies.
- Offers a wide range of reflective questions that invite learners to think deeply about their relationships with children and families. These questions help learners build their capacity to practice the process of becoming more aware of cultural perspectives, beliefs, and needs.
- Addresses the importance of emotional intelligence in strengthening relationships with children and families.

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The seven modules in this series include opportunities for self-reflection and practical strategies that will strengthen your ability to develop responsive relationships. These reflections and strategies will also help you maintain positive relationships over time.

Here is a sample of what you will find in these modules:

Module 1: Understanding Who You Are (2.5 hours)

Offers in-depth exploration of your own experiences and identity. This exploration is an important first step in understanding how our experiences and identities shape how we form relationships with others.

Module 2: Understanding How You Relate and Engage With Others (2.5 hours)

Offers opportunities to reflect on who you are as you relate and engage with others. Explores strategies for examining and strengthening relationship skills.

Module 3: Getting to Know Families (2 hours)

Examines the ways culture impacts our approaches to learning about children and families. Provides opportunities to reflect on your own values and beliefs about working with families and the importance of cultural awareness. Offers approaches to build authentic relationships and create a sense of community with families.

Module 4: Developing and Maintaining Responsive, Reciprocal Relationships With Families (2 hours)

Explores strategies for developing and maintaining responsive, reciprocal relationships with families.

Module 5: Developing Responsive Relationships With Children (2 hours)

Invites you to consider children's experiences with you as their caregiver and their experiences within the environment you provide. Examines ways to create a sense of caring and belonging while maintaining responsive relationships with each child.

Module 6: Engaging in Responsive Partnerships With Families (2 hours)

Explores the benefits of building responsive partnerships with families. Identifies elements of successful partnerships and considers approaches for having sensitive conversations with families.

Module 7: Reflecting on Children's Behaviors (2 hours)

Explores why children behave the way they do. Offers approaches to gain a deeper understanding of children's behaviors.



This module series is available at no cost. To enroll, create a free account on [California Early Childhood Online](#).