Creative Curriculum

Teaching Strategies for Younger and Older Toddlers

* Imitating actions
  + Do some actions that your toddler can copy; this helps him/her use an important type of learning—Imitation
    - Ex. Sit down with your toddler while holding a spoon and pan. Hit the pan with the spoon and then invite your toddler to do the same
      * When they imitate you, you can respond with, “You did what I did—you’re banging the pan with the spoon!”
* Make undressing easy
  + Loosen your toddler’s shoes, slightly unzip his/her coat, or pull his/shirt partly over their heads so he/she can do the last part of the action. Your toddler will have the satisfaction of successfully completing the job of removing the clothes
  + It is best if you can make the time to practice during natural undressing transitions, such as before bath time or in the morning. Always offer positive feedback after item of clothing is removed or put on (ie. “You took off your shoes—great job!”). Also, talk about the patterns and colors on his/her shirt as your toddler is taking off or putting on a piece of clothing. Be sure to describe the clothing (ie. “Oh look, you are taking off your red shirt.”
* Talking throughout the day
  + It is very important to talk to your toddler frequently throughout the day—naming objects and describing his/her actions. As your toddler understands more words, offer more complex instructions such as, “Please put your blue ball in the toy box.”
  + As you progress with your toddler, start to be more specific with simple phrases. For example, instead of saying, “let’s go”, replace it with, “let’s take a ride in the car”. Then you can offer words of encouragement for your toddler to attempt something on their own and after your toddler has performed the action—“You can do it, try climbing into the car!/You climbed into the car all by yourself!”

As always, be creative and have fun with your toddler!

Best,

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