POWERFUL INTERACTIONS
How To Connect With Children To Extend Their Learning

Dombro, Jablon, Stetson 2011
INTERACTIONS

The exchanges in words and gestures we have with children...
YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
TURNING EVERYDAY INTERACTIONS INTO POWERFUL INTERACTIONS
INTENTIONALITY IS KEY!

• Research finds that interactions in which teachers intentionally promote learning are few and far between.

Early et al. 2005; Pianta 2010
3 STEPS OF A POWERFUL INTERACTION

Be Present
Connect
Extend Learning
STEP 1: BE PRESENT

• Pause & Prepare
DO A “ME CHECK”

• How am I feeling now?
• How can I adjust to fit and connect with this child?
STEP 2: CONNECT

• Let the child know that you see her, are interested in what she’s doing, and that you want to spend some time with her.
CONNECT

- Teacher’s reported closeness to individual children predicts children’s academic success.

Hamre and Pianta 2001
STEP 3: EXTEND LEARNING

• The opportunity for learning lies in moments of teacher-child interaction, when the teacher crafts learning experiences that stretch children just beyond their current skill level.

Munro 2008
EXTEND LEARNING

• When you extend a child’s knowledge and understanding hand-in-hand with nurturing a positive relationship with that child, you create the optimal condition for you to teach and for the child to learn.

Birch & Ladd 1997
POWERFUL NOT PERFECT