

Workshop 3 – Playing-2-gether in Practice

Thursday 24 October 2019

Basic P2G Skills: Observing, mirroring and describing play

Work in groups of three

1) Preparation:

There is play material for everyone. As a group you choose the material.

Divide the roles.

- One of you is a child (think of a child you know; not a child you have problems with).
- One of you is a teacher
- One of you observes

2) Play with the child

Teacher and child sit together with the materials on the table.

The 'child' starts to play with the materials, in your own way. Anything is fine. You don't need to use language, only if you want to.

The teacher takes some time to observe what the child is doing with the materials. When you know what the child is doing, you can take some of the materials and start to use the materials in the same way as the child. You mirror / imitate the child's play. Continue this for a while. Just see what happens. Nothing is wrong.

If you want to use language, use it to describe the play of the child or maybe your own actions in an objective way. Just mention what you see happen or what you do.

If the teacher wants to, she may ask for a time-out and discuss shortly with the observer what to do or say. Teacher and observer might also change roles.

The observer makes some notes on what happens.

After 7 or 8 minutes, you can stop the exercise.

3) Discuss together what happened during the exercise.

The teacher may first share her experiences. Specific questions that may help: Was it difficult or easy for you and why? Did it feel nice, strange, good, bad ... to apply the skills? Why? What did you notice in the child? What works for you?

Now the child may tell. How did you feel? How did you experience the company of the teacher? What did you like or dislike about her behaviour?

Finally, the observer may tell what she noticed. What was positive?

4) If there is time, change roles and start again.

5) After practicing, write down your insights about this way of guiding play.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their insights about the guiding play process.