

Responsive home environments promote social ease

What is the practice?

To help a young child develop social ease:

- Provide a variety of learning materials and toys that interest and challenge your child, placing them where he/she can use them regularly;
- Be sensitive and responsive in how you relate with your child;
- Encourage your child to explore and interact with the people and objects he or she encounters in everyday settings.



Interacting with a friendly neighbor in her garden is a perfect opportunity for a little fellow to build a strong sense of social comfort.

How do we do it?



1 *Make the places where your child spends her days richly populated with people and things that capture her interest. This little girl regularly plays with the bright whirlybird ornament in her family's garden.*



2 *Let your home be a welcoming place where he enjoys frequent encounters with all kinds of people of all ages. Their attention and positive responsiveness will help him develop healthy emotions and social behaviors.*



3 *Think of the places and objects in your home from your young child's perspective. Arrange things so that he can experience, explore, and learn from a great variety of toys and everyday objects on a regular basis. These small brothers, for example, relish the splashing and imaginative fun of play time in the kitchen sink.*

See it happen

It's easy to take your responsive style on routine trips to places like the supermarket. Encounters with lots of interesting people and things are found along every aisle. Your young child can enjoy participating by helping you select items, pushing her toy cart to gather groceries, and greeting and "chatting" with the checkout staff.

Is it working?

- He is comfortable in the presence of unfamiliar people.
- He smiles when a parent or caregiver helps him meet someone new.
- She shows interest in exploring new places and interacting with new people and new things.

