Effective DAP® Teaching Strategies

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE** what children do or say. Let children know what we have noticed, through comments or by sitting nearby and observing.

2. **ENCOURAGE** persistence and effort rather than just praising and evaluating what the child has done.

3. **GIVE SPECIFIC FEEDBACK** rather than general comments.

4. **MODEL** attitudes, ways of approaching problems, and behavior toward others; show children rather than just tell them.

5. **DEMONSTRATE** the correct way to do something. This usually involves a procedure that needs to be done in a certain way.

6. **CREATE OR ADD CHALLENGE** so that a task goes a bit beyond what the children can already do. For example, lay out a collection of chips, count them together and then ask a few children how many are left after they see you removing some of the chips. The children count the remaining chips to help come up with the answer. To add a challenge, you could hide the chips after you remove some, and the children will have to use a strategy other than counting the remaining chips to come up with the answer. To **REDUCE CHALLENGE**, you could simplify the task by guiding the children to touch each chip once as they count the remaining chips.

7. **ASK QUESTIONS** that provoke children’s thinking.

8. **PROVIDE INFORMATION** directly to give facts, verbal labels, and other information.

To learn more about DAP visit [http://www.naeyc.org/DAP](http://www.naeyc.org/DAP)

© National Association for the Education of Young Children

*DAP = Developmentally Appropriate Practice*