



Practicing Acknowledge, Ask, and Adapt Skills

Role-play Instructions

- A. Participants are to form groups of three and assign members either the role of the parent, caregiver, or observer.

PARENT: The parent's role is to act out the scenario provided.

CAREGIVER: The caregiver's role is to act out the scenario provided while practice utilizing the AAA skills.

OBSERVER: The observer's role is to take notes during the role-play. At the end of the role-play provide feedback to the caregiver and describe the AAA skills that were demonstrated.

- B. Groups will repeat this same process two more times utilizing two different scenarios each time. Each person will also change his or her role. For example, if you were the parent in the first role-play, the next choices are to be in the role of the observer or caregiver.

ACKNOWLEDGE, ASK AND ADAPT

SCENARIO 1

Caregiver

You came from India when you were 12 and are fully bilingual and bi-literate in English and in your home language. You have just gotten a new girl in your classroom, Madhu whose family speaks the same dialect that you do. Madhu has no understanding of English so you have been speaking to her in her home language so she will feel comfortable and understood in the classroom. Her parents have requested that you speak to her only in English because they want her to learn the language of this country. You are uncomfortable with this because you know that research shows that children who can't understand their environment feel powerless and that their adjustment to the new setting is more difficult. You have asked her mother to meet with you so you can discuss this situation with her.

SCENARIO 1

Parent

You and your family are new to the United States and are here without the extended family that you had in India. Your husband insists that you put your 2-year-old daughter Madhu in a program with other children so she can learn English. He feels that it is essential to her success in this country to become fluent in English. However, in the classroom Madhu's teacher is also from India and she speaks the same dialect as your family. She insists on speaking to Madhu in her home language even though you have asked her to speak to her only in English. You are trying to follow your husband's wishes, but do not know how to insist that the teacher do as you have asked. Now, the teacher has asked to meet with you and you are concerned about what she wants and what you should say to her.

ACKNOWLEDGE, ASK AND ADAPT

SCENARIO 2

Caregiver

Wei is a child in your classroom. She is eighteen months old. She has been in your room for three months. Wei has adjusted to the classroom easily with the exception of one thing. Her mother brings her to school every day dressed in many layers of clothing. When you asked about this her mother said that it is important that her daughter be warm enough during the day, especially since you take her outside often. You feel that the classroom is kept at a temperature that does not require children to wear so much clothing. You have noticed that Wei is often red faced and sweaty while playing actively inside the classroom. You also feel that the clothing limits her freedom of movement and prevents her from participating fully while outdoors. You would like to see her dressed in a way more appropriate to a childcare setting. You have scheduled a conference to talk to Wei's mother about your concerns.

SCENARIO 2

Parent

You have lived in the Bay Area for six months. Your home country has a hot and humid climate and you have had a difficult time adjusting to the cool winds and morning fog in this new country. You have been very surprised that the teachers at the childcare program take the children outside everyday no matter what the weather. You were shocked by this since at home no one goes outside when it is cold and windy unless they absolutely have to because everyone knows this is the way to invite sickness into your life. The teacher has talked to you about Wei wearing too many clothes to school. You do not understand what she means. Wei needs to be dressed warmly if she is going to be out in the cold weather. Now the teacher has asked to meet with you. You are worried because you feel that the teacher does not understand about how to keep young children healthy.

ACKNOWLEDGE, ASK AND ADAPT

SCENARIO 3

Caregiver

This is the third day in a row that Martha's mother has complained about her being dirty when she picks her up. You have tried to explain that it's important for toddlers to be able to use messy materials like sand, water and paint. You believe that children learn independence and autonomy by being able to feed themselves and clean up after themselves. They don't always do the best job in the world at either of these tasks, but they are learning to be self-sufficient which is so important for young children. Today your assistant did finger painting and Martha got some in her hair and on her clothes. You tried to clean her up, but when her mother came to pick her up she seemed really upset. She avoided you and scolded Martha for being so "dirty" and left quickly. You have called her and asked her to come and talk to you about why she was so upset. The conference is tomorrow.

SCENARIO 3

Parent

You are very unhappy with your daughter's teacher. You believe that it's important for someone who cares for children to keep them clean and neat. This teaches children healthy behavior, to take care of themselves and their clothes. When Martha is at home, whenever she gets messy you clean her up immediately. You want Martha to learn good habits and the importance of cleanliness. Today when you picked her up, you could not believe your eyes. They had children smearing paint on the table and the children were full of paint. Martha even had paint in her hair. Can you believe this, that a teacher would allow such behavior and encourage children to make such a mess? You were so angry you did not know what to say, so you did not talk to her teacher at all. She called you later to ask you to come in and talk to her. She could tell you were angry. You do not know what to tell her, she should know better because she is a teacher.

KNOWLEDGE, ASK AND ADAPT

SCENARIO 4

Caregiver

Five of the families in the center come from an ethnic group whose cultural practice is to have babies wear a protective amulet around their neck. The amulet has an important religious significance for families. They believe that the amulet protects their babies against illness and other dangers. However, the childcare center regulation states that infants and toddlers may not wear necklaces for safety reasons. Injuries may be caused by other babies pulling the necklaces too tight or yanking them off or by the babies chewing on them and choking. The amulets may also be lost. The program administration has made it clear that they are not willing to change this policy. You are aware that the families feel very strongly about this religious belief. You have asked a representative of the five families to come in for a conference to discuss your concerns.

SCENARIO 4

Parent

You have been asked to come to a meeting by the center director. You think that it has something to do with the religious amulet that your baby wears. The teacher has asked you about it a number of times so you feel that they have some concerns about this practice. In your country it is essential that children wear religious amulets because they are necessary for protection from illness and evil spirits. Every parent protects their child in this way, they would be very bad parents if they did not do this and something bad happened to their baby. The teacher thinks they are not safe, but our babies have worn these amulets for generations and never have the amulets been a danger to the baby or other children. You are afraid that at this meeting they are going to try and make you leave your baby unprotected. You are very worried about what will happen.