



Your early learning guide for infants,
toddlers and three-year-olds

Module 1:

Responsive Caregiving Scenarios

Scenario 1

Sergio, 23 months, arrives at the classroom with his grandmother. As she nudges him into the room, he begins to cry loudly and cling to his grandmother's legs. You are seated on the carpet reading a story to a small group of toddlers.

Scenario 2

Since Paige, 28 months, arrived at her child care program this morning, she has been very listless and uninterested in the experiences and materials around her. Now sitting in the book area holding a puppet, she scans the room watching the other children. She selects a book, turning a couple of pages but showing no interest. She begins to whimper, then to cry softly. You say to her, "What's the matter, Paige?" Paige doesn't respond but her crying diminishes to whimpering.

Later in the morning, Paige is wandering around the room, seemingly without purpose. Paige once again begins to weep. You are at the table with three children exploring shells, pinecones, rocks and leaves. You invite Paige to join the group. Paige stands next to you then she asks to sit on your lap. You seat Paige on your lap and hand her a leaf. Paige begins to whimper. You kindly say, "Paige, you are crying a lot today. What is wrong?" You check her forehead to see if she has a fever and decide she doesn't.

Scenario 3

When Rowan, 19 Months, gets hungry and has to wait to eat, she cries loudly and is difficult to comfort. She follows you around and hangs on your leg as you try and care for the other children and get ready for lunch.

Due to her home schedule, usually Rowan is hungry before the rest of the children. Today you decide to feed everyone a little early to prevent Rowan from getting upset. As you start washing everyone's hands for lunch, Rowan hurries to her seat. Naomi, 26 months, doesn't want to eat yet. When you call her to wash her hands, she runs behind a shelf.

Scenario 4

Tan, 10 months, is crawling around the room exploring everything in his pathway. He crawls to the table where a caregiver is feeding Autumn, 7 months, and he pulls to a stand. He reaches for Autumn's bowl of food while holding on tightly to the table. The caregiver gently stops his hand and says, "No, no, Tan. This is Autumn's food." He lowers to his knees and crawls away. Soon, Tan nears the diaper changing table. He again pulls to a stand, this time holding on to the trash can. He bangs his hand on the metal can, thoroughly enjoying the noise it makes. He looks over at the caregiver who is busy feeding Autumn. Then he realizes the lid has a swinging door and tries to make the door swing. "Tan, that is dirty. Don't touch." The caregiver moves him to the cozy area, hands him a book and returns to feeding Autumn. No sooner than the caregiver returns to feeding Autumn, Tan is once again on the move. This time he opens the door to the play refrigerator and tosses out all of the play food.

Scenario 5

You are changing Anna's diaper while her bottle is in the warmer. She just woke up from a nap and is very cuddly and clingy, cooing and smiling at you as you change her. Another child's parent comes into the room and asks you when you think her child will be ready to move to toddlers. She is a bit upset and stressing that she doesn't want her child to stay with all of these babies when she is almost walking. Rico wakes up in his crib and begins to fuss, quickly getting louder. Julie has pulled up on a shelf for the first time and is bouncing and laughing.