

PICCOLO

Parenting Interactions with Children: Checklist of Observations Linked to Outcomes

Purpose: To reflect on observed parenting behaviors on home visits and everyday life in order to enhance the parent-child relationship and to provide learning opportunities for their child's growth and development while increasing parent-child interactions.

Applicable Performance Standards: 1302.31 a(1); 1302.35(b)(c); 1302.46 b(iv); 1302.50; 1302.51

Approach

The PICCOLO informs us about parenting in many ways including what parents **can** do to support their child's development, what parents **believe** is important to do with their children, what parents feel **comfortable** doing in front of others, and what parents **know how** to do with their children.

When using the PICCOLO, be positive with the parents, focusing on the strengths you see in the relationship; be practical, encouraging parents as a part of regular routines; and be culturally sensitive, keeping in mind what interactions are most important to the family.

The PICCOLO can be used to plan individualized parent-child interactions through looking for the highest PICCOLO scores, asking what daily activities involve those behaviors, planning with the parent to do those activities on a home visit, and asking about related parenting behaviors in that and other domains throughout the course of the year.

Goals for Developmental Parenting

The overall goals for developmental parenting include:

- Enhancing and encouraging the parent's role as the primary educator of their child.
- Parenting that helps children develop.
- Parenting that develops over time.
- Parenting that home visiting can help parents develop.

Staff will promote developmental parenting behaviors through:

- Observation
- Prompt feedback
- Asking about child's feelings, cues, frustrations, and interests
- Offering further information about development

The PICCOLO is used to observe 4 parenting behaviors including:

Affection: *Warmth, physical closeness, and positive expressions toward child*

Responsiveness: *Responding to child's cues, emotions, words, interests and behaviors*

Encouragement: *Active support of exploration, effort, skills, initiative, curiosity, creativity, and play*

Teaching: *Shared conversation and play, cognitive stimulation, explorations, and questions*

Steps used in Home Based to complete the PICCOLO

- Discuss the PICCOLO observations with parents prior to using the tool.
- Review and give to parent the handout “29 Things Parents Do that Predict School Readiness”.
- Provide parents with a copy of the PICCOLO observation tool for parents to review.
- Use flexibility to re-schedule as necessary.
- Include the parents in the choices of activities.
- The observation will be done *three times* a year with each child during the program year using 10 minute observation for the parenting behavior areas.
 - **Fall: July 1st- Nov. 15th**
 - **Winter: Nov. 16th – March 15th**
 - **Spring: March 16th- June 30th**
- After completing your video/observation, review and debrief with parents, pointing out strengths in parenting behaviors and opportunities for learning. Encourage and invite parents to share their perspective on the parent-child interactions that were videotaped. This is a good time to talk about developmental parenting, child development, parent-child interaction, etc.
- After debriefing with parents, there is an opportunity to set goals with the parents or choose activities to try out during the week to enhance their parenting skills.
- Throughout the observation periods, check in with parents on how they are doing with their goals and activities.
- Document these conversations on the Home Visit Action Log.
- Document scores in Child Plus
- Keep PICCOLO in the Education section of the family file.
- Each assessment period the home visitor and supervisor will review at least one PICCOLO video observation together, and score sheet.
- Offer the family a copy of the video clips at the end of the enrollment in the program.

PICCOLO observation activities will be selected that:

- Fit program goals
- Can be completed in a limited space in the home
- Engage both the parent and the child
- Last a minimum of 10 minutes

Some suggested activities include picture books, puzzles, pretend play toys, diapering, feeding, bathing, and planned home visit activities.