

Managing Expectations & Social Challenges

(synopsis of faculty presentation)

DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

- **Social**
- **Emotional**
- **Physical**
- **Intellectual/Learning**



CLASSIC MILESTONES IMPACTING EVERY AREA OF DEVELOPMENT

- At 18 months old, a baby can figure out that the ball they rolled under the sofa comes out the other side
- 18-24 months a toddler begins to develop a conscience – can feel shame and embarrassment
- At 19 months, children begin to understand when things don't conform to adult ideas (like calling a pig a cat). This is the beginning of comprehending right from wrong.
- Toddlers view other toddlers as objects that move and make noise
- 3-4 year olds imagine that many unfamiliar objects are monsters
- A 2-year-old is unable to comprehend the concept of accident – it is a personal assault
- 2-3 y/o, enjoy playing among, not with other children
- Sharing concept comes on 3-4 y/o
- Age 5-6 ability to pay attention doubles, desire drops
- Children on average are 6 inches taller than 100 years ago
- 20/20 vision not set until age 10

Never ending Challenges

- IS MY KID NORMAL??
- Parent Chatter
- Parenting other parents
- Label other children in the class (bad, aggressive, etc)
- Birthday parties, exclusive playdates can be so hard at this age; LESS IS MORE!

CHANGING PARENTING SKILL-SETS

- Skill-sets for a career not in sync with those necessary for parenting
- Parents feeling...
 - Alone
 - Overwhelmed
 - Incompetent
 - Resentful

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS..to support a healthy result

- Perfection...as a parent, school.. is an impossibility
- Normal only exists due to extremes
- Parenting is a NEW job with every child
- Every parent falters; our kids learn the most by the way we handle it

WHAT WE CAN DO TO SMOOTH THE BUMPS

AVOID...

Extremes of all types...playdates, emotions, chaos, excess...

- **Micro-managing**... it weakens competence
- **Impatience**... it hinders development

ENCOURAGE...

- Verbal rewards
- Process rather than product
- Following gut instinct when you think something is wrong
- Permission for downtime!
- Family adventures (simple, quality)
- Procedures for referral
- Read aloud 10-20 ... she retells story
- Remember that preschool is not about MASTERY, rather JOY
- Use rich language and provide multiple teachable moments

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