



## **Transcript- Connections videos (English only)**

### **Being, becoming and belonging**

Connection is a golden thread for children in our services. I want to think about being, becoming and belonging. How do we encourage our little children just to be who they're here to be? How do we help them and support them to become who they have the potential to become? And how do we give them a sense of belonging and connection?

Every new baby starts their journey into this world as a helpless immature human. They rely on others like us to care for them, to keep them safe, to calm them, nurture them and to love them. How do the children we spent time with know that we care about them? A smile, using their name, "Oh Abbey I'm so pleased you're here today; I forgot you were coming". Even if they are a babe in arms, "*Joshua, look at your t-shirt today, I've got a t-shirt on as well, Oh my goodness me!*". Or a whispered hello, "*Hello, hi, how are you today? Hi Mum, how are you? Oh my goodness we are going to have such an exciting time*".

How do we keep them safe? Encourage them to check their space, wash their hands, make sure by saying "*Oh my goodness, I don't want to trip up, I'm going to walk over here.*" Be dramatic, nurture them; squeeze of their shoulders, a tussle of their hair, a little cuddle. Love them, love them, love them. Demonstrate through time, energy and focus. Have a greeter, have another greeter, have a third greeter, because we're all different. Three little cockerels! Being, becoming, belonging. To help us connect.

### **Connecting my family and community**

It's more than just me. Our children need to connect to themselves, but also to their community, their family, their heritage and their culture. We need to remember that our little ones have no real understanding of themselves, or emotions, or what they need. It's our job to guide them and help them to fulfil the capacity for life. They're born into a family, into a community, and a culture with heritage that's rich and fabulous. How do we consider a child's connection to their community, their culture and their family?

Using their first and second language is a good start. Celebrating their family background and heritage through objects and artefacts or books. This little book here is "You be you". It's a board book so we can read it from the very minute our child is born. Or we might use "My two Mum's and me" or "My two Dad's and me". Oh my goodness me, there's loads of these books on the market guys. Or of course, beautiful stories where I see myself reflected in illustrations. This book is about Parker, and she goes on a journey to a museum, and she looks up at this picture that's actually Michell Obama. Oh, my goodness, their family make up is so important guys. Books are a fabulous way to connect children to their community, their family and their heritage. Do we have books that help us do that?



### **Connections through love**

Love. The most important thing that we want all of the children that come to our service to feel is loved every single minute of every single day. As a parent of 2 children, that's what I want for my 2 children. To know that every day they are loved.

Now there are 6 different kinds of love. We wouldn't want to demonstrate all six different kinds of love in our service, but certainly maybe 2, 3 maybe even 4 of them guys. Perhaps you could look up the different kinds of love, and do a little bit of research on that, or just get a little artefact. This bag was out of one of the shops that we would go into every day and buy clothes. Inside it we have lots of different heart shaped objects, and they are small, and big, and all kind of red, and wood, and there is matching, and there is pairing. So, while we are feeling the love and talking about love, with the Queen of hearts here in my bag. We are also thinking about how special each one of us are, and thinking about demonstrating those different kinds of love, through the actions that we share with our children. Do we show it to each other? Do the staff give them a big high five in front of the children? Do we do a pinky promise in front of the children? Do we give each other a cuddle in front of the children? Do we demonstrate loving, sensitive and nurturing touch?

### **Disconnect to reconnect**

Every day connect. How do we greet our children? If we think about it, children disconnect, or have to disconnect, from the most important people in their lives. And that has been proven to be true whether they are in a thriving, non-thriving, a loving, or non-loving, chaotic or challenging household. It's still the most continuous person in their lives, and so we need to make sure that that disconnection to reconnect to us is spectacular. Not just for the child but for the parent to. It's scary giving your child to someone else for a day.

Oh my goodness me! All you want for them is to be loved and nurtured and cuddled and caressed and to feel that. So why don't you put little daffodils out on the path up to the door to come in? Or little flowers? And encourage Mum, or Dad or Gran or whoever to say "*Oh my goodness, look, we are on a yellow Daffodil. Let's walk up to the red Tulip. Now we are going from the Tulip up to the Chrysanthemum and we're at the door. And you're going to meet your friends Oh my goodness me*" Or put some colours. "*We're on the red dot, now we are on the purple dot, we're now on the green dot, oh my goodness me!*" While the Mum is saying that, or the Dad is saying that, you're watching them arrive and you're saying "*Oh my goodness you're getting closer and your closer. Oh, my goodness you're getting closer. Look, you're on the green, you're on the blue you're on the yellow. When you're on the purple your beside me on my grass*". We need to



demonstrate how excited we are to connect to them. It's also about connecting to the parents. *"Oh my goodness Mum, you're leaving little Livvie with us. I'm so excited to play with her and I hope you you're going to do something spectacular today. Put your feet up, go shopping whatever you're going to be up to I'm sure it will be great"*. Every day, connect.

### **The first moment each day**

That first moment of every day is so vibrantly important. To get us off to the right start. So, do your eyes twinkle? Does your voice caress as the children come to you? What is your body language saying to the child, or to the parent too?

Do we ensure every single day that the child is greeted as if it is their first time with us? What's in the box? What's in the box? What's in the box today? What's in the box? What's in the box? Can I hear you say? And then, when we open it oh my goodness, you are a..., and it's a mirror, oh my goodness you're a star!

Oh, my goodness me! What is it that we do that makes the parent secure in the knowledge that every single minute of the time their child spends with you is going to be fabulous. That their child will be loved. Oh, my goodness me guys. What are we doing to ensure that that first moment of connection is vibrantly fabulous?