Interactions with children. The licensee and program staff must:

1. Actively seek out meaningful conversations with children and talk about events of importance to the child;
2. Be available and responsive to children and interact on the child's level, encouraging them to ask questions, share experiences, ideas and feelings;
3. Encourage children to evaluate a problem and form a resolution rather than impose an adult solution; help children to develop mediation and negotiation skills to solve problems;
4. Foster creativity and independence;
5. Build on children's strengths while allowing for mistakes;
6. Treat equally all children in care regardless of race, religion, culture, sex, family structure and ability;
7. Demonstrate positive interactions with children and other adults when children are present;
8. Be in frequent verbal communication with children in a positive, reinforcing, cheerful and soothing way;
9. Treat each child with consideration and respect;
10. Appropriately touch and smile at children;
11. Speak to the children at their eye level when possible and appropriate;
12. Respond to and investigate cries or other signs of distress immediately;
13. Perform age or developmentally appropriate nurturing activities that:
   a. Take into consideration the parent's own nurturing practices;
   b. Promote each child's learning self-help and social skills; and
   c. Stimulate the child's development; and
14. Provide each child opportunities for vocal expression; adult voices must not always dominate the overall sound of the group.

[WSR 18-14-078, recodified as § 110-305-6000, filed 6/29/18, effective 7/1/18. Statutory Authority: Chapter 43.215 RCW. WSR 12-23-057, § 170-297-6000, filed 11/19/12, effective 12/20/12.]