5 Priority Practices© for Parents, Teachers, and Caregivers

Provide rich learning activities that build on the child's interest	Read, sing, and tell stories	Know the stage of a child's development and what comes next	Create nurturing relationships and use positive guidance	Be responsive and expand verbal and non-verbal communication
Create a world of wonder by knowing what a child is excited about – extend learning using natural interests.	Use a variety of sounds, words, melodies, and rhythms to "bathe" or immerse children in language.	Know a child's level of development and know what comes next to offer just the right amount of practice and challenge.	Provide warmth and support, teach positive behavior, and prevent rather than punish challenging behaviors.	Build connections in a child's brain through back and forth turn-taking, which supports language development and healthy bonds.
Examples				
• Ask open-ended questions and use descriptive language to deepen thinking • Build on naturally occurring curiosity and exploration • Infuse math, science, literacy, creativity, and movement into everyday activities	• Use music and books to calm, excite, emphasize, teach, reinforce, practice • Use rhyming words or words with similar sounds in fun ways • Make up stories and songs; tell or sing them over and over	• Break down tasks or ideas into small, doable chunks • Provide content, activities and materials just a little above the child's current level of development • Model thinking out loud to show children ways to solve problems and express thoughts, ideas, and feelings	• Establish routines to create clear expectations, predictability, and security • Tell children what to do vs. what not to do • When children are struggling, redirect to another activity and help child understand what happened	• Strive for two-way interactions in verbal or non-verbal communication • Check-in with children to communicate that you understand their intent • Pause and listen when waiting for a response