

WHAT IS PICCOLO?

An Evaluation tool utilized by the Greenwich Parents as Teachers program

Where are parents' skills the strongest—and how can they be encouraged to better support young children's cognitive, social, and language development? Home visitors can find out in minutes with PICCOLO™, the quick, reliable observational tool designed to assess and monitor the quality of parent–child interactions. Developed for use with parents of children ages 10-47 months, PICCOLO measures 29 developmentally supportive parenting behaviors in 4 critical domains—Affection, Responsiveness, Encouragement, and Teaching. It's the best way to assess which parenting behaviors are working, develop individualized interventions that help parents improve, and track positive outcomes.

WHY PICCOLO?

- Research-based—assesses parenting behaviors with direct, proven links to positive child outcomes
- Quick, clear, and easy to use—takes just 10 minutes for parent–child observation
- Highly reliable—based on 4,500 video observations of 2,000 diverse families
- Culturally sensitive and relevant
- Ready to use anytime: at program entry, throughout the year, and at program exit
- Helps to provide positive feedback to parents and plan interventions
- Great way to monitor parent/child outcomes and program effectiveness

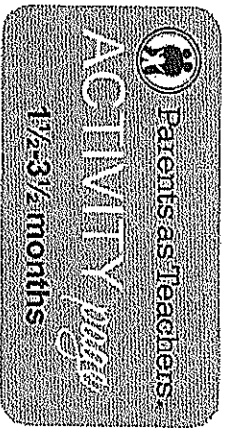
The four domains of developmental parenting behaviors measured by PICCOLO:

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, stimulations, explanations, and questions.



What do we have?

- > Blanket
- > Small amount of natural vegetable oil (olive, safflower, sunflower, or canola) in a cup or saucer
- > Parent handout Your Nurturing Touch: Practicing Infant Massage
- > Board book



Book sharing
Book time can happen whenever you are both cuddled up and together. Recite a book, nursery rhyme, or song from memory. You baby loves to hear the rhythm of the sounds and the rhythm in your voice.

In Sync With Massage: Communicating and Responding.

How do we do it?

1. Rub a small amount of oil between your hands to warm it and then show your hands to your baby. Ask permission from your baby. "Would you like to have a massage?"
2. Watch for cues to make sure your baby is relaxed and ready.
3. Use the parent handout Your Nurturing Touch. Do the milking stroke four or five times with each hand.
4. If he is still happy, stroke the bottom of each foot from the heel to the toes, thumb over thumb.
5. Now gently touch each toe. You can count while you touch each toe. Notice if your baby likes the touches. What touch does he like best?
6. If your baby is still happy, repeat the massages on the other leg. It is always best to do the same massages on both sides of his body.

What's in it for us?

- > **Social-emotional:** When you massage your baby you are building a flow of communication.
- > **Social-emotional:** When your baby trusts that his needs will be met, it builds secure attachment.
- > Your baby has many states of consciousness. The quiet alert state is the best time for him to respond to his world and learn. The active alert state may also be a good time for a more active massage — but he may be more likely to move around.

(child skill or parent skill defined by the parent/parent educator)



Safety tip
As you rub your baby's skin during a massage, it is recommended to use a natural vegetable oil. Lotions will absorb into his skin more quickly than oils and could cause friction.



Parents as Teachers

Parenting behavior

Communicating: Observe and respond to your baby's likes and dislikes. Talk to your baby when you are responding. He is "talking" to you as well.

What I noticed about my baby ...

Continued learning

Watch your baby and determine his responsiveness. When he is just waking up, you may be able to help him get back to sleep.
After bath, your baby is quiet and relaxed so a massage may help him move into the sleep state.
When your baby is more active and wants to play, offer him a playful massage. Sing while you bring one knee up to the tummy, keeping the other leg straight. Bring the other leg up to the tummy and move the opposite leg down straight. Repeat the movements as you sing.

What I noticed about myself ...