



Social and Emotional Development Activity for 12 to 18 Months

Transitional Photos

This activity helps children feel secure and comfortable in a new environment. Even children who have been with caregivers out of the home for a long time will enjoy occasionally "touching bases" with the parent or family photo. This also builds respect between the parent and the caregiver, and makes the child feel secure and loved by all parties.

Materials:

- Photo of the parent or whole family
- Smiling photo of your face (have numerous copies made)
- Laminating paper or clear contact paper

What to do:

1. Laminate the photos on both sides.
2. Let the child carry around the photo of the parent or special person in his life, or place those photos in a particular spot where the child can retrieve his any time.
3. Send the child to the care center with a picture of you or your home.
4. Encourage the caregiver to put it in some visible spot.
5. Ask the caregiver to talk about you frequently.

Variations:

- A. Play a matching game with the photos, as a child quickly learns to recognize many people. Put all the photos in a shoebox. Hold up one at a time and ask, "Whose daddy is this?" "Whose mommy is this?"
- B. Develop a "favorite folks ring" with several pictures of people in the child's life, such as grandparents, neighbors, or pets. Punch holes and place them on a large key ring.

