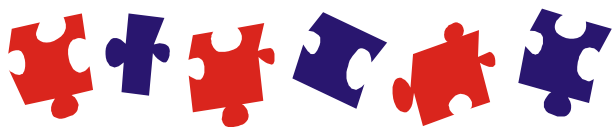


HOW IS MY PRESCHOOLER LEARNING TO BE INDEPENDENT?



We want children to grow up to be able to take care of themselves, do well in school, have good relationships with family and friends, work hard to earn what they need and be good citizens.

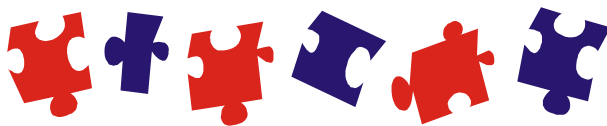


Children should learn these values early, mostly by watching what we do as adults. We try to serve as good examples for the children by taking care of ourselves, solving problems productively and meeting our responsibilities.

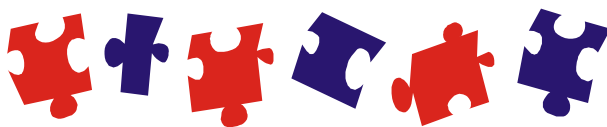
We build into our program many opportunities for children to help themselves. After we demonstrate the “how to,” children are encouraged to do such things as put on their own coats, clean up after themselves, help serve meals, work out their conflicts peacefully and make decisions about where and how they will play.



We encourage children to express their feelings when they disagree or if someone hurts them. This teaches children to rely on themselves rather than having adults solve problems



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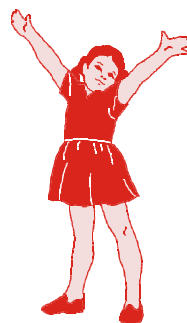


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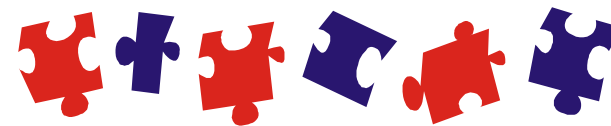


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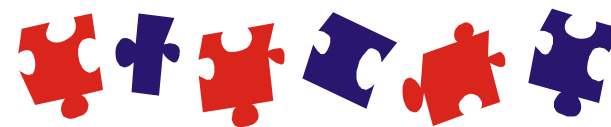
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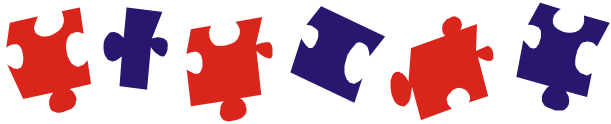
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for them. A teacher might say, “Darryl, tell Jack that it hurts when he pushes you. How can you two prevent this from happening again?”

Of course, children must follow certain rules to keep everyone safe, and we remind children about them as needed. But we trust children’s basic goodness and encourage their independence.

When children come up with ideas for new activities, we often include them in our planning. When we notice that children have strong interests in certain activities, we expand those activities instead of rushing into the next scheduled event.

By giving children opportunities to feel strong in positive ways, we find they are more able to rely on themselves, and are more cooperative and happy.



Released by Don Bower,
Extension Human Development Specialist
Developed under contract by Linda J. Grant

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Leaflet CHFD-E 25-05

July, 1999

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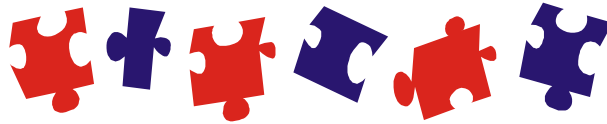
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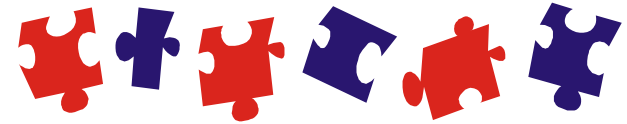
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