



Children were choosing to be alone. We noticed the children were reacting in a frustrated, angry manner when another child tried to play with them.

We focused our attention and energy on using positive words and actions in an attempt to change this pattern.





We used non-verbal recognition, such as a big smile, a fist pumping up and down in the air, or a thumbs-up.

The thumbs-up in this picture occurred when a child stated, "We're all sharing the playdough."





When we saw children playing together harmoniously, we noticed what they were doing with verbal descriptions.

We worked diligently to keep our descriptions factual and without judgement.

"Two kids splash in the turtle."





"Three children are standing in the tub."





"Four children are using the pitcher at the same time."





"Four children are carrying the stick across the yard."





"Five children are playing with water, dandelions, and grass."

After we used non-verbal recognitions and descriptions for a short time, a change happened in the children. They were less frustrated with each other and began playing together more often.

And they were excited to tell us about it!

One day while the children were dancing, one of them yelled excitedly, "Look! We're all dancing together!"

A change also happened for the grown-ups at Zoe Family Childcare. The more we looked for positives in the children, the more joy we experienced in our day.

Both parents and children enjoyed looking at the documentation poster of this story, too.

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