

Handout 5.2

Supporting Social–Emotional Development: Sample Scenarios

Scenario	What It Might Mean	What You Would Do	How Your Response Supports Brain Development
You are playing with a baby. She begins to arch her back and turn away.			
A toddler is trying to fit a shape into the shape sorter and is getting very frustrated. He ultimately tosses the toy, and it hits another child.			
A 2½-year-old plays by herself most of the day. When other children try to engage her, she turns away.			
A group of 3-year-olds are playing in the sandbox. They decide that the sandbox is going to be an ocean where their sea critters live. One child insists the sandbox is not the ocean—it's a farm. When the other children won't budge, he dumps a whole bunch of sand out of the box and storms off.			
A 4-year-old consistently argues with the limits the teacher sets, telling her that she's not the boss of him. He turns away and laughs when she tries to correct him.			