Volunteers Working with Children in the Classroom Guidance

Purpose
This document gives helpful tips for volunteers working with children in an Early Learning classroom

Guidance
What you will see in our classrooms and sites
- Children learning by talking and using their 5 senses.
- Children using classroom supplies.
- Children moving around.
- Children working together and on their own.
- Children thinking for themselves.
- Children leading the way with ideas and teachers following.
- Children having fun with adults!

How you can help
- Notice and talk about the good things kids do.
- Accept each child as they are, don’t compare.
- Let children try to do things on their own before helping.
- Let children make mistakes.
- Give kids a chance to make choices.

Ways to talk with children.
- Always tell the children what they should do --- not what they shouldn’t do. Say:
  - “Hold your coat so it doesn’t drag” instead of “Don’t drag your coat on the ground”.
  - “Play gently” instead of “Don’t break the toys”.
  - “Use a quiet voice” instead of “No yelling”.
  - “Thank you for helping me clean off the table.”
  - “You did a good job of washing the toys.”
  - “I like being with you.”
  - “You should proud of your hard work.”
- We want children to share their ideas and feelings. Let the child know that you are really listening. Let them know that you accept and respect what they are saying.
- Talk with children at eye level. Stoop down to their height, or sit at a table when talking with them.