

# Week 1 Reading Assignment

*Ways to Make Group Times More Flexible and Responsive to Children*



# Ways to Make Group Times More Flexible and Responsive to Children

- Keep the group size small. Typical group size is up to four children with one caregiver, up to eight children under 12 months old with two caregivers, or up to twelve children to ages one to two and a half years old with two caregivers. Groups may be smaller than this, but should not be larger.
- Stop or change the activity if few or no children are participating.
- Attend to children's cues, leads, and communications.
  - Use the same materials children are interested in; imitate their actions and sounds; comment on their choices, gestures, and expressions; interpret their communications for one another.
  - Help children exit the group as needed (e.g., for a diaper change; to locate a co-caregiver; to be put to bed because they are tired).
  - Facilitate continuity for those who remain (e.g., resume the activity, focusing on the materials or activities that are interesting to the remaining children).
- Provide children with choices (e.g., books, materials/objects for each child).
- Schedule group times when children are most inclined to engage in the activity (e.g., after outside time, after naptime).
- Anticipate that children will come and go from the group.