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Intro to Communications

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### Parental Teachings

1. Identify examples of direct definition in this scenario. How does Kate define Emma and Jeremy?

In this scenario, Kate refers to Jeremy by suggesting he push his sister on the swings, never mind the fact that he is two years younger than Emma. Usually the older sibling will push their younger sibling on a swing set. She then is happy to see him climbing on bars and refers to him as a “strong little man” asking how high he can go. For Emma she is referred to by her “pretty new dress” but is discouraged from climbing with her brother because she could fall and get hurt, suggesting that she is more fragile.

2. Identify examples of reflected appraisal in this scenario. What appraisals of her son and daughter does Kate reflect to them?

As Jeremy climbs up the bars, his mother refers to him as a “strong little man” and challenges how far up he can reach. When he reaches the tallest point he refers to himself as the “king of the hill” validating her appraisal. She praises him openly and this makes Emma jealous, also wanting approval, she starts to climb as well but her mom is quick to say that she must be careful not to

get hurt. Not listening led her to be quickly removed by her mom and was scolded. She then proceeds back to the swing set. In this moment, we see that Kate's idea of little girls doesn't involve them conquering monkey bars, showing her daughter that her strength is not a part of physical prowess.

3. What do Emma's and Jeremy's responses to Kate suggest about their acceptance of her views of them?

In their responses, we see Jeremy being validated as a growing boy making connections with his physical abilities and his self-worth. The idea of conquering something is positive for a boy not only encouraged but praised. For Emma, we see that she retracts to a lighter playing activity after being scolded for being daring like her brother. She's given up on her mom's approval when demonstrating physical ability.

4. To what extent does Kate's communication with her children reflect normative gender expectations in western culture?

Kate's communication with her children showed gender expectations, how women and men should behave, very lightly. Even though Emma is the older sibling, she encouraged Jeremy to push her on the swing, suggesting the idea that no matter the age men have to take initiative over women. As Jeremy moves to the bars she acknowledges his physical strength and challenges him, promoting the understanding that men's strength is connected to their physical abilities and must be tested. For Emma she has to be swung on the swing because as a girl she is to be taken care of and must wipe her dress after falling because her appearance is a priority. When she

attempts to climb like her brother she is encouraged to be careful, to not push herself like her brother. This suggests that women are limited in physical abilities. When she attempted to challenge herself like her brother, she was scolded and removed. To her it is more appropriate to swing something perceived less “dangerous.” This reflects the idea that girls don’t challenge their physicality and are to remain demure.