## 5 Priority Practices© for Parents, Teachers, and Caregivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provide rich learning activities that build on the child’s interest</th>
<th>Read, sing, and tell stories</th>
<th>Know the stage of a child’s development and what comes next</th>
<th>Create nurturing relationships and use positive guidance</th>
<th>Be responsive and expand verbal and non-verbal communication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Create a world of wonder by knowing what a child is excited about – extend learning using natural interests.</td>
<td>Use a variety of sounds, words, melodies, and rhythms to “bathe” or immerse children in language.</td>
<td>Know a child’s level of development and know what comes next to offer just the right amount of practice and challenge.</td>
<td>Provide warmth and support, teach positive behavior, and prevent rather than punish challenging behaviors.</td>
<td>Build connections in a child’s brain through back and forth turn-taking, which supports language development and healthy bonds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Examples

- Ask open-ended questions and use descriptive language to deepen thinking
- Build on naturally occurring curiosity and exploration
- Infuse math, science, literacy, creativity, and movement into everyday activities
- Use music and books to calm, excite, emphasize, teach, reinforce, practice
- Use rhyming words or words with similar sounds in fun ways
- Make up stories and songs; tell or sing them over and over
- Break down tasks or ideas into small, doable chunks
- Provide content, activities and materials just a little above the child’s current level of development
- Model thinking out loud to show children ways to solve problems and express thoughts, ideas, and feelings
- Establish routines to create clear expectations, predictability, and security
- Tell children what to do vs. what not to do
- When children are struggling, redirect to another activity and help child understand what happened
- Strive for two-way interactions in verbal or non-verbal communication
- Check-in with children to communicate that you understand their intent
- Pause and listen when waiting for a response

Citation: The Early Learning Lab. *5 Priority Practices©*, March 2018.