PICCOLO
Parenting Interactions with Children: Checklist of Observations Linked to Outcomes

Purpose: To reflect on observed parenting behaviors on home visits and everyday life in order to enhance the parent-child relationship and to provide learning opportunities for their child’s growth and development while increasing parent-child interactions.

Applicable Performance Standards: 1302.31 a(1); 1302.35(b)(c); 1302.46 b(iv); 1302.50; 1302.51

**Approach**
The PICCOLO informs us about parenting in many ways including what parents can do to support their child’s development, what parents believe is important to do with their children, what parents feel comfortable doing in front of others, and what parents know how to do with their children.

When using the PICCOLO, be positive with the parents, focusing on the strengths you see in the relationship; be practical, encouraging parents as a part of regular routines; and be culturally sensitive, keeping in mind what interactions are most important to the family.

The PICCOLO can be used to plan individualized parent-child interactions through looking for the highest PICCOLO scores, asking what daily activities involve those behaviors, planning with the parent to do those activities on a home visit, and asking about related parenting behaviors in that and other domains throughout the course of the year.

**Goals for Developmental Parenting**
The overall goals for developmental parenting include:
- Enhancing and encouraging the parent’s role as the primary educator of their child.
- Parenting that helps children develop.
- Parenting that develops over time.
- Parenting that home visiting can help parents develop.

Staff will promote developmental parenting behaviors through:
- Observation
- Prompt feedback
- Asking about child’s feelings, cues, frustrations, and interests
- Offering further information about development

**The PICCOLO is used to observe 4 parenting behaviors including:**
- **Affection:** Warmth, physical closeness, and positive expressions toward child
- **Responsiveness:** Responding to child’s cues, emotions, words, interests and behaviors
- **Encouragement:** Active support of exploration, effort, skills, initiative, curiosity, creativity, and play
- **Teaching:** Shared conversation and play, cognitive stimulation, explorations, and questions
**Steps used in Home Based to complete the PICCOLO**

- Discuss the PICCOLO observations with parents prior to using the tool.
- Review and give to parent the handout “29 Things Parents Do that Predict School Readiness”.
- Provide parents with a copy of the PICCOLO observation tool for parents to review.
- Use flexibility to re-schedule as necessary.
- Include the parents in the choices of activities.
- The observation will be done **three times** a year with each child during the program year using 10 minute observation for the parenting behavior areas.
  - **Fall:** July 1st- Nov. 15th
  - **Winter:** Nov. 16th – March 15th
  - **Spring:** March 16th- June 30th
- If you are observing a child under the age of 10 months you will observe two parenting behavior areas: **affection and responsiveness**. For children 10 months and older you will observe the four parenting behavior areas in the PICCOLO.
- After completing your video/observation, review and debrief with parents, pointing out strengths in parenting behaviors and opportunities for learning. Encourage and invite parents to share their perspective on the parent-child interactions that were videotaped. This is a good time to talk about developmental parenting, child development, parent-child interaction, etc.
- After debriefing with parents, there is an opportunity to set goals with the parents or choose activities to try out during the week to enhance their parenting skills.
- Throughout the observation periods, check in with parents on how they are doing with their goals and activities.
- Document these conversations on the Home Visit Action Log.
- Keep PICCOLO in the Education section of the family file.
- Record completion date of each PICCOLO observation on the Education Monitoring Log.
- The PICCOLO observation forms will collected by your supervisor at each assessment. They will be copied and returned back to you.
- Each assessment period the home visitor and supervisor will review at least one PICCOLO video observation together and review the observation form.
- Data will be compiled and shared with you each assessment period.
- Offer the family a copy of the video clips at the end of the enrollment in the program.

PICCOLO observation activities will be selected that:

- Fit program goals
- Can be completed in a limited space in the home
- Engage both the parent and the child
- Last a minimum of 10 minutes

Some suggested activities include picture books, puzzles, pretend play toys, diapering, feeding, bathing, and planned home visit activities.