



There Is Always Something to Notice

Noticing together can turn waiting into connection.

Everyday waits are full of things to notice.

Children are naturally curious about the people, sounds, movement, patterns, and changes around them. When adults slow down enough to notice what has captured a child's attention, an ordinary wait can become a moment of connection and discovery.

We don't always have to direct children's attention. Sometimes the first step is simply to notice what they notice.

What can noticing together support?

CONNECTION

Following a child's attention communicates: I see what interests you, and I'm interested too.

LANGUAGE

Naming what children see, hear, or experience gives words to something that already has their attention.

CURIOSITY

A sound, movement, reflection, vehicle, animal, or everyday object can become something worth exploring.

BACK-AND-FORTH

A look, point, sound, gesture, or question can begin an interaction that moves naturally between child and adult.

Pause before you point.

Adults are often quick to show children what to look at. Try leaving a little space first. Watch where the child looks, what they point toward, or what makes them stop. Their attention can tell you where the interaction wants to begin.

NOTICE WHAT THEY NOTICE.

Waiting does not have to become a lesson or a planned activity. Sometimes connection begins simply by paying attention to what has already captured a child's interest.