

Scenarios-for Problem Solving and Role Play Practice

Scenario 1: Parent behavior (when interacting with provider).

Rashida attends a local community college and has her daughter, Samira, enrolled in the campus child care program while she attends classes. As part of her parent responsibilities, Rashida works two hours a week volunteering in her daughter's classroom, helping to supervise a group of children during lunch time. Meals in this program are served family style, and it is the policy of the child care program to have all adults who are sitting at the tables eat lunch with the children. This allows the children to have adult role models, showing them how to serve themselves, try new foods, extend language, etc. The classroom teacher, Josie, notices for the second week in a row that Rashida is not eating or taking a plate of food during lunch time. Josie walks over to Rashida and reminds her she is allowed to take food, and that she is encouraged to do so to model healthy eating habits for the children. Rashida responds by saying, "Thank you, but I am not allowed to eat right now". Josie is not sure how to respond to this. Josie is not familiar with Rashida's culture, and does not realize that she is not eating because she is fasting as part of the practice of Ramadan.

Scenario 2: Child behavior (when interacting with provider).

Amina is a five-year-old girl who attends a mixed-age preschool program. Sheila is one of the teachers in Amina's classroom. Sheila believes that children need to respect the adults in the classroom, and this includes making eye contact with an adult when being talked to. One afternoon Amina gets into an argument with another child over a toy and Sheila has to intervene to help them solve the problem. While talking with Amina, Sheila notices that Amina will not make eye contact with her, and she tells Amina, "You need to look at me when I am talking to you". Amina refuses to make eye contact with Sheila and withdraws and begins to cry.

Scenario 3: Provider behavior (when interacting with child/children).

Josefina is an eight-year-old girl who has recently moved from Mexico with her family. Josefina's parents enroll her into a summer child care program while they go to work each day, hoping that she will have a chance to make some friends and get used to her new culture before school starts. Josefina understands some English, but is shy and is not comfortable yet trying to speak in English. Josefina has been at the center for two weeks, and her teachers have noticed that she does not eat the food offered to her. One day at lunch, one of the teachers tells her that it is not OK for her to waste the food she is given, and that she needs to be brave and try the new food she is given. What the teacher does not realize is that Josefina has not been eating because she is used to having tortillas with her meals and using those to eat her food with. What could the teacher have done to have prevented this situation from occurring?