

Newsletter, May 2020

Play With Me Program Weekly Tips

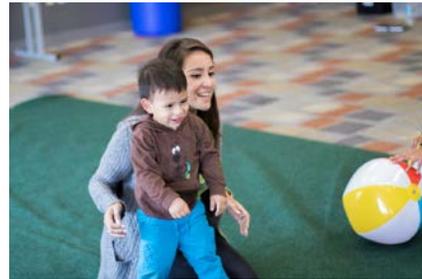
The [Play With Me program](#) topic for the week of April 30th was "Promoting Independence." Some tips to help your child be more independent:

- Model a new task for your child and explain each step, then let your child do it and assist them as needed.
- Allow extra time for your child to complete tasks on their own.
- If you feel impatient, you can step away while your child completes the task on their own.
- Motivation is key during this process! When motivated, children will continue to learn skills, feel more independent, and improve their ability to complete new tasks.



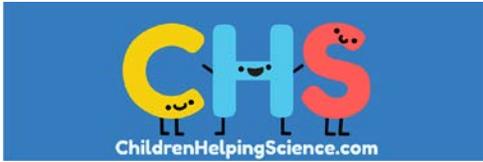
The topic for the week of May 7th was "Promoting Social Skills." Points include:

- Social skills such as self-control, following directions, and taking turns are very important for your child's success in kindergarten.
- Remember that these skills are hard for young children. Give lots of support and understanding as these skills develop--throughout early childhood and beyond.
- Your child learns how to be empathetic with others by watching how you express empathy: "I understand how disappointed you were when you didn't get the toy you wanted. I've felt that way before."
- Talk to your child about their emotions and the emotions of others.
- Play games that include taking turns, waiting, and helping others.



Our 12 week program has now officially ended for this semester but we will continue to check in on our families and are planning virtual parent check-ins for the summer. Stay tuned for more information.

New Website for Family Research Participation



CCF faculty affiliate [Dr. Candice Mills](#) and colleagues have created a new web platform for families to find out about research opportunities for children and parents, from anywhere in the world! [ChildrenHelpingScience.com](#) features online studies being conducted by various universities,

including UT Dallas, for multiple ages on a variety of research topics. The studies are fun for families, and serious for science! Learn more at [ChildrenHelpingScience.com](#).

CCF Check-Ins

We've had a lot of fun over the past few weeks checking in with our various constituents - CCF Advisory Council members, faculty affiliates, and students - listening to and supporting them in the ways that we can. Thanks to all who participated and stay well!



From the Director

The semester has ended for both our University students and families in our Play With Me programs. Thanks to all for your flexibility in adapting to our new ways of connecting and perseverance in learning and working in this new environment. We are especially proud of our 2020 graduates - Leslie, Martha, Franchesca, Nancy, Nishani, Cora, Sabrina, Rahi, and Cecilia - and wish you all the best for your futures! We are grateful for you and the support you have provided our Center. With this hope, we continue to march onward.

- Margaret T. Owen, PhD, Robinson Family Professor, Director, Center for Children and Families, School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences
