

# Building Connection Age 4 Summary

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## Why Building Connection?


Your child's early years are a time of incredible growth, and one of the most important foundations you can build is connection. By creating small, consistent moments of bonding, you're strengthening your child's sense of security and trust, key ingredients for healthy attachment and emotional well-being.

Connection is built through everyday interactions, from mealtime to playtime and soothing moments. These small yet powerful moments help your child feel loved, safe, and cared for.

**STEP 1**  **GET INPUT** **Get Your Child Thinking by Getting Their Input**

- *“Are you ready to play?”*
- *“Do you want to see what’s outside?”*
- *“Are you feeling sleepy?”*

**Tip:** When your child tries to tell you something, respond to them. This back-and-forth exchange builds early communication skills.

**STEP 2**  **TEACH** **Teach New Skills**

- *“You’re feeling upset right now. I’m here.”*
- *“I see you’re excited, look at that big smile!”*

**Tip:** Children are learning that their feelings are valid and that parents and those in a parenting role are there to help them feel safe and calm.

**STEP 3**  **PRACTICE** **Practice to Grow Skills and Develop Habits**

- If your child tries to tell you something, respond with a joyful tone: *“Oh yes! Tell me more!”*
- If your child turns their head away, respect their need for space.

**Tip:** Repetition is key. Small, consistent acts build long-term security.

## **STEP 4** **SUPPORT** **Support Your Child’s Development and Success**

- Lower your voice.
- Reduce background noise.
- Hold them quietly to help them reset.

**Trap:** Remind yourself: *“I’m doing my best, and that’s enough.”*

## **STEP 5** **RECOGNIZE** **Recognize Efforts**

- *“I love how you smile when I sing that song!”*
- *“You feel so calm when we rock together. I love these quiet moments.”*

**Tip:** Building connection happens over time. Each small effort creates a stronger bond, and your child will feel that love every day.

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