Communication Scenario: Unique Ways of Communicating

Read through the following scenarios and then answer the questions below. Think about the unique ways the children are communicating and how you might respond as family child care provider.

You recently became a family child care provider. Before you started, your family child care administrator asked that you spend time observing for a day in another family child care home to take note of the interaction between provider and the families and children. You are very excited about the suggestion and begin right away. The list below highlights some of your observations:

- During drop off, a mother plays peekaboo with her 10-month-old daughter. You hear both the mother and the daughter giggling.
- A provider is changing the shoes of a young 3-year-old boy. She talks about what she is doing, “Benjamin, we are going to change your shoes so we can go outside and play. I'm going to try to do this as quickly as I can as I know you want to get outside.” Benjamin is making eye contact with his provider, holding his shoes, and saying, “go outside.”
- A new child who is 5 years old is sitting next to the door saying, “I want to go home.” Her father just left. A provider is sitting next to her, saying, “You seem very sad. Your daddy will be back right after nap.” The caregiver hugs the child and shows her the daily schedule with pictures. The provider asks her if she would like to write her father a note. The child nods and smiles at her caregiver.

1. What communication and language skills did you see and hear?

2. How were the children's communication efforts being acknowledged and responded to by their caregivers?

3. Would you do anything differently? What experiences might you offer?