Promoting a Sense of Self: Scenarios

As an infant and toddler caregiver, you work with diverse children and families. Read each of the scenarios below, reflect on the child’s and family’s sense of self, and address how you would promote a positive sense of self. When you are finished, share your responses with your supervisor, trainer, or coach.

Two-year-old Josie is new to your program, and her home language is not English. She is having difficulty falling asleep at naptime. Discuss what actions you might take to address this issue and promote Josie’s sense of self.

Possible Actions:

- Ask Josie’s parents to teach you one of Josie’s favorite lullabies in her home language.
- Use pictures with words in Josie’s home language for routines such as naptime.
- Label areas and materials in the classroom in both English and in Josie’s home language.
- Gather ideas from Josie’s family about what soothes her at naptime.
- Invite Josie’s family to the classroom to share traditions, foods, etc. from their culture.
- Invite Josie’s family to the classroom to share how they help transition Josie to naptime.

Denise is a single mom with an 18-month-old son, Darius, in your classroom. Denise has mentioned at drop-off and pick-up that she just can’t seem to keep up with all the demands of single parenting. She says that “she just can’t seem to get it right.” Reflect on what your response might be in support of this family’s sense of self.

- Ask Denise if the two of you can set up a time to meet and discuss possible resources that might be helpful.
- Offer positive feedback on something you see Denise doing “right.” Example: “When you drop Darius off, you always give him a big hug and a kiss.”
- Let Denise know that she is not alone; there are other single parents in your classroom. Would she like you to connect her with them?