



**A key lesson is that children must feel safe, and the first line of communicating our safety and support of a child's engagement and learning is our affect and gestures. I** have developed a simple acronym to help you pay attention to yourself and how you "are" with a child:

## **A.G.I.L.E.**

### **AFFECT**

This is what a child experiences first and most! Your demeanor and overall emotional state are what the child will experience.

### **GESTURE**

Modulate and be attuned in your facial expressions, hands, movement, posture, and pacing. Carefully manage your interpersonal space.

### **INTONATION**

Modulate the tone of your voice, as this conveys affect and social/emotional meaning. Calm, slower voices convey safety and regulation.

### **LATENCY**

(Wait): Wait and allow the child time to "take you in."

### **ENGAGEMENT**

Before you continue, be sure you have engaged the child!

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