



**Stages of Teacher Engagement  
By Eric Nelson**

- Awareness
  - Not self pre-occupied
  - Not focused on adults
  - Not distracted by irrelevant events
  - Aware of the children / Aware of self-dynamics
  
- Observation
  - Sees the big picture
  - Recognizes and focuses on what's important
  
- Connection
  - Appreciates what is happening
  - Is attracted to connect
  - Makes the physical connection
  
- Reception
  - Is open to what is going on
  - Receives what is offered
  
- Acceptance
  - Unconditional acceptance of children as they are
  
- Alignment
  - Bring body, mind, emotions and spirit into alignment with activity and child
  
- Empathy
  - Allow yourself to become one with the child

- Unconditional Positive Regard
  - Fall in love
  
- Understanding
  - Use your education and experience to understand what is going on
  
- Presence
  - Establish yourself physically (distant, on the periphery, in the middle, in contact)
  
- Communication
  - Communicate verbally (greet, comment, question, invite, speculate)
  
- Action
  - Participate as appropriate
  
- Reflection
  - Monitor what is going
  - Reflect on what happened
  
- Evaluation
  - Evaluate against experience, goals, objectives, or with others
  
- Learning
  - Identify and acknowledge learning and act on it!