UHMCC encourages the intentional creation of opportunities to develop trust and respect across all types of relationships; teacher-child, child-child, teacher-teacher, parent-teacher, teacher-administration. Without this basic sense of trust and respect values such as collaboration, intentionality and personal relevance can take on very negative aspects.

In their text, *Powerful Interactions: How to Connect with Children to Extend Their Learning*, Amy Laura Dombro, Judy Jablon, and Charlotte Stetson describe the three steps to intentionally creating interactions with individual children:

- **Step 1 – BE PRESENT**
- **Step 2 – CONNECT**
- **Step 3 – EXTEND LEARNING**

Below are 10 tips for creating powerful learning opportunities that can be created after relationships of trust and respect have been developed and maintained.

- **Help children see themselves as thinkers.**
  - Say what you see them doing.

- **Respond to their curiosity.**
  - Ask open-ended questions about opinions, predictions, what they would need to find out.

- **Use modeling talk**
  - Describe what you are doing AND what you are thinking as you demonstrate a skill.

- **Have 2-way conversations.**
  - Ideally, you should be speaking only half of the time.
  - Non-verbal actions count as speaking.

- **Inspire imaginative play**
  - Be in the moment – let everything else go.
  - Give yourself permission to be silly.

- **Solve problems together – Collaboratively not cooperatively**

- **Use rich vocabulary with lots of adjectives.**

- **Laugh with the children**

- **Ask questions**
  - Plan questions to ask as part of your activity plan.
  - Challenge thinking and opinions – increase justificatory speech.

- **Link the new to the familiar.**