

Buster Beaver Builds a Dam

A Story About Playing with Kids



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Social Health & Academic Readiness Enrichment

Encouraging F.A.N. Interactions

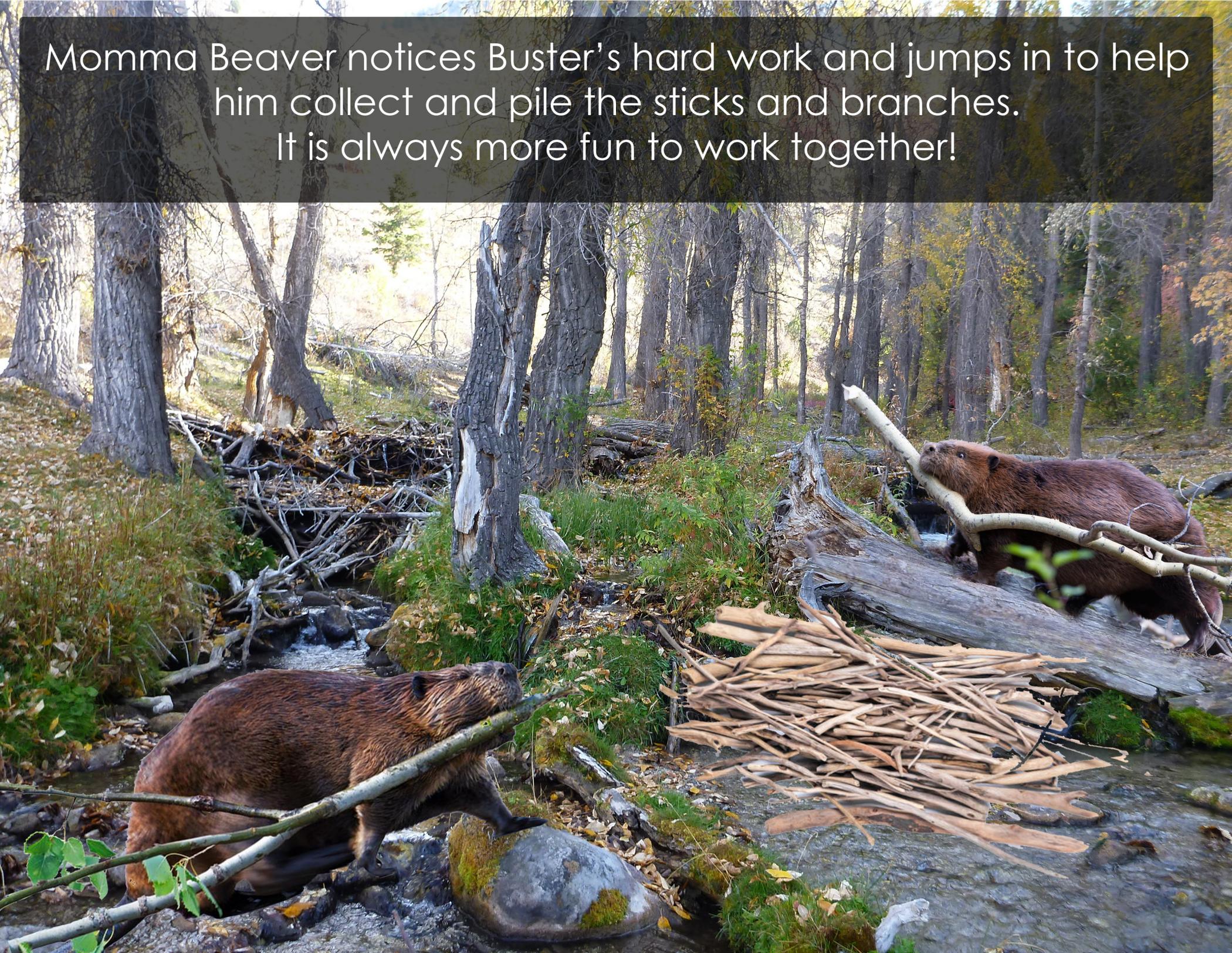
Strategy	Description	Examples/Tips
Follow	<u>Follow</u> the child's lead by doing similar activities & imitating suitable behaviors.	Play along with the child's chosen games. Play with the same toys in similar ways. Assist in the child's activities (e.g., puzzle helper). Help the child overcome obstacles
Appreciate	<u>Appreciate</u> positive aspects of the child and setting with positive attention & praise	"I like how hard you worked on that tower." "I'm glad you took a few deep breaths." "That lion is really silly." "I really enjoy playing with you." "That's a pretty bird by our window."
Narrate	<u>Narrate</u> the child's actions (& other events) like a play-by-play	"You put the pink pig in the blue car." "You placed the bunny on top of the horse." "You gave the tower a sturdy base." "The unicorn and the cat are sharing the food." "We have a visitor joining us."

Enthusiastically provide **positive attention** during child-directed interactions.

One day, Momma Beaver finds her baby, Buster, rummaging in the woods. He is gnawing on sticks and collecting branches into a pile.



Momma Beaver notices Buster's hard work and jumps in to help him collect and pile the sticks and branches. It is always more fun to work together!



Buster and Momma Beaver begin to stack the sticks and branches, but they aren't very stable.



As Momma Beaver and Buster continue to stack the branches, the pile gets taller and taller. Eventually they begin to fall down and after re-stacking them many times, Buster begins to get frustrated.



As the pile continue to tumble, Buster's frustration grows. As the frustration grows, he becomes impatient and stomps off.



Frustrated and upset, Buster sits under a tree and pouts. He is feeling discouraged that his sticks and branches won't stay stacked neatly.



Momma Beaver comes over to comfort Buster.

“Take some deep breaths. Don’t worry,” she says, “It took me a long time to learn how to stack the branches to make our house.”



After taking some deep breaths and calming down, Buster and Momma Beaver return to stacking the sticks and branches. “There you go! Stacking them with the biggest branches at the base and criss-crossing them as you move up, makes the dam sturdier.”



As Buster continues to stack the sticks and branches, the dam gets taller and taller.
“Wow! It is really strong!” says Momma Beaver.



“I like how you are helping Momma expand the house. You are so helpful! You used the bring branches at the bottom to support the smaller sticks at the top. You made a strong dam! Buster giggles and scurries inside.”



“Oh! You are hiding in the dam you built.”
Momma Beaver knocks on the door, “Can I come in?”
Buster giggles as Momma Beaver peeks inside.



“It sure is dark in here!” Momma exclaims, “You are really brave to be willing to hide in the dark!”



Momma Beaver notices, "It looks like you brought some leaves in with you to keep you warm. I also see you brought your Fish Doll with you to keep you company."



“Oh, is it time for a nap after all of your hard work? You did great today. It’s time for some rest,” says Momma.
“Goodnight, little one!”



Discuss with an Adult:

1. What is a beaver's house called?
2. What did Buster do to calm down?
3. How do you improve on skills?