Emotion Coaching for Parents

Dr. Maisha Syeda, Ph.D., C. Psych

Correspondence: msyeda4@uwo.ca

Five Steps for Emotional Coaching

Step	How does it look like
1. Attend	 Paying attention to subtle and obvious emotional cues (e.g., facial expressions, body language, eye gaze, tone, words)
2. Label	 Create a space to label and talk about emotions at home Take an educated guess and sensitively name the emotion De-coding the hidden message
3. Validate	 Showing understanding of the child's emotions Not providing reassurance or solutions (yet)

Five Steps for Emotional Coaching

Step	How does it look like
4. Meet the emotional need	 Specific strategies to meet the child's emotional needs For example Anger: giving space, boundaries, feeling heard Sadness: comfort Fear: safety Shame: reassuring the child
5. Problem Solve	 Once the emotions are managed (later), brainstorm and implement practical strategies to support your child in solving the problem