Social-Emotional Development Scenarios

Read the scenarios below and reflect on the child's social-emotional development. Pick 1 scenario from each age group and answer the questions:
1. What social-emotional skills and processes is each child working on?
2. What milestones is the child working on mastering for their age?
3. What would you do to promote positive social-emotional development in each of the situations? Why?

Infants/ Toddlers:
1. Eighteen-month-old Ting is new to your program, and her home language is not English. When her family leaves each morning, Ting cries for hours and is hard to soothe.

2. When it's time to come inside, 2-1/2-year-old Adonis refuses to clean-up and come in. He keeps playing in the sand box.

3. Each time a new person comes into the classroom, 8-month-old Abina starts to cry.

Preschool-age children
4. Four-year-old Tyrik loves to play with the babies in the dramatic play area. When other people come over to play with the babies, he does not let them have a turn.

5. Five-year-old La' Shannon says to Raisa, "You're my best friend," as they go down the slide. Five minutes later, Ana comes over to show the rock she found and lets La'Shannon hold it. La'Shannon announces, "Ana, you're my bestest friend in the whole wide world!". Raisa sulks away from Ana and La'Shannon.

6. It's time to take her shoes off for nap and 3-year-old Jacinda is struggling to remove her shoes. When you offer to help, Jacinda, says loudly, "No, I do it!"

Young School-Age Children

7. Six-year-old Aiko loves to play kickball. Each time others play with her, she makes the rules, and changes the rules throughout the game. Everyone must play by her rules during the game.

8. Eight-year-old Rasheema loves to play soccer during recess. She doesn't pass the pass much, trying to get and keep the ball herself for most of the game.

9. Vincent is a polite seven-year-old with a vivid imagination who loves to read. He is often alone on the playground, playing by himself most of the time.