



The Baby Dance: Enhancing Attachment Relationships with Infants & Toddlers

Learning Objectives - By the end of this training, successful participants will:

- ✓ List 4 benefits of adult-child attachment relationships for infants' and toddlers' development
- ✓ Describe 5 indicators of healthy attachment relationships
- ✓ Participate in 3 connecting activities

The Importance of Responsive Relationships

What Brain Research Tells Us

- _____ and _____ interactions shape brain architecture.
- "Because responsive relationships are both expected and essential, their absence is a serious threat to a child's development and well-being."

(<http://developingchild.harvard.edu>)

What Behavior Management Research Tells Us

Teachers who had high-quality relationships with their students had _____ fewer discipline problems ...over a year's time than did teachers who did not." (Marzano & Marzano 2003, p. 6)

What Child Development Research Tells Us

Children with close teacher-child relationships in preschool have:

- Better social and emotional development
- Better cognitive and language development
- Better school achievement

Child-Teacher Attachment (Raikes & Edwards, p. 13-14)

When the relationship is developing well:

- Teacher and child _____ at the sight of one another
- Teacher and child seek eye and physical contact with one another
- Teacher and child adjust their _____ to the other
- Child relaxes when held by the teacher
- Teacher's _____ is comforting to the child
- Child plays productively when teacher is in the room, using teacher as a secure base

Interaction Strategies that Enhance Teacher-Child Attachment Relationships:

First of all, talk with children!

Be a Sensitive Teacher

- Listen _____ to understand children's communication
- Be warm and encouraging during interactions
- Get on the children's _____ and maintaining good eye contact with each child while interacting
- Be empathetic
- DON'T be _____, intrusive, or _____ (Raikes & Edwards, p. 11)

Use Connecting Activities

Their primary purpose is to establish or strengthen relationships with children.

They require:

- Emotional warmth
- Close contact
- Playfulness (adapted from www.consciousdiscipline.com)

Use throughout the day, especially during _____ and _____.

Transitions are emotional times: Treat them with respect and care! (Raikes & Edwards 2009, p. 95-96)

What will YOU do to enhance your relationships with your children?
Whatever you do, enjoy the dance!

RESOURCES

Building Better Beginnings: Improving Texas Child Care Standards <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/30810514/building-better-beginnings-improving-texas-child-care-standards>

Bailey, B.A. 2000. *I love you rituals*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc.

Bailey, B.A. & Harmon, M. *Songs for I Love You Rituals: Vol.1 & 2* www.consciousdiscipline.com

Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University Serve and Return video. <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/serve-and-return/>

Marzano, R.J. & Marzano, J.S. (2003). The key to classroom management. <https://bottemabeutel.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Marzano-Marzano.pdf>

The Promise to Georgia's Children – Rollins Center for Language & Literacy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqljnK4HVaw>

Raikes, H. H. & Edwards, C. P. (2009). *Extending the dance in infant and toddler caregiving: enhancing attachment and relationships*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Inc.