Supporting Infant & Toddler Development During Virtual Home Visits

Partners for a Healthy Baby Home Visiting Curriculum

May 21, 2020

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Through Imitating

By Exploring

Learning Originates in Relationships

Young children learn best when they...
- feel safe and cared for.
- feel competent.
- are learning through everyday experiences.

Young children learn best when they are playing
Why Play is Important

• Contributes to healthy brain development
• Supports development across domains
• Enhances physical health


Why Play is Important

• Essential to developing social and emotional ties
• Allows opportunity to explore fears and practice adult role


Ways to Support Infant Toddler Development

❖ Get Messy!
❖ Read, Read, Read!
❖ Talk and Sing Together
❖ Get Active Outside
❖ Choose Appropriate Toys
❖ Make Chores Fun!

Poll Question

If you’re using the digital curriculum, are you texting handouts to your families?
Read, Read, Read

Among youngest children, daily parent-child reading prompts cognitive skills as well as early vocabulary gains that lead to more reading and vocabulary growth – a “snowballing” growth pattern.

**Shared Reading**

When families share books with their children, they model how to develop literacy skills and give the message that learning to read and write is important.

**Choosing Books for Infants**

- Few words per page – 1 is ok!
- Easily grasped by small hands
- Sturdy and easily cleaned
- Easily turned pages (board/vinyl)
- Pictures of faces and babies

**Choosing Books for Toddlers**

- Few words per page
- Photos of children doing familiar things
- Simple rhymes or predictable text
Talk & Sing Together

• Beyond vocabulary, children are learning how to be social beings by listening to talk.
• From listening, being talked with, and observing, children learn about:
  − Emotions
  − The social context that goes with words
  − Interactions in the family and the larger world
Get Active Outside

Choose Appropriate Toys
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Make Chores Fun!

• Follow their lead.
• Suggest activities that meet their needs – right now.
• Consider materials they have on hand.

Working with Families

“Every time you give a parent a sense of success or of empowerment, you’re offering it to the baby indirectly. Because every time a parent looks at that baby and says ‘Oh, you’re so wonderful,’ that baby just burst with good feeling about themselves.”

− T. Berry Brazelton

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