

Family Engagement Series: Session II

## BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR ENGAGING FAMILIES

*Relationships with Infant and Toddler Families*

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### Our presenters



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### Today's objectives


**Support**

Understand the importance of educating families; offering support with child development and social-emotional information.


**Communication**

Identify strategies to communicate with families of infants and toddlers, including providing them resources and support of our **youngest** learners!

### Why child development education?



New parents do not always know what typical development looks like.



Knowledge of parenting and child development plays a key factor in reducing child abuse.

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**Wonder** with families as you observe children's curiosity?

*What do you notice?  
How is she revealing her thinking?  
What might you offer next to expand her research?*

## Family Engagement Activities

Expand on the experience

Where's the Child? 6-12 months (Behavior Specific)  
 Infants search under a blanket for a rattle or preschooler.  
 Observable Behaviors (Key Behaviors in bold Italics):

**Observable Behaviors (Key Behaviors in bold Italics)**  
**89 - Locates a hidden object (a one-step hiding action) (Fine motor)**  
 Observed the child: A) remove the blanket to find the partially hidden toy or object, B) find a toy or object that was completely hidden. (Learned Skill)

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## Develop Social & Emotional Skills

Social & Emotional Intelligence begins in the womb.

New families need support.



## Develop Social & Emotional Skills

Help families build resilience.



## Develop Social & Emotional Skills

Supporting New Parents: **Building Parental Self-Esteem**

- Am I doing this right?
- Compliment parents
- Build a team: "WE" can together

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## Develop Social & Emotional Skills

Supporting New Parents: **Encourage Social Interaction / Connections**

- Support interactions
- Asking questions of other parents
- Seeing parenting in action

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## Building Trust

Childcare Staff & Family Relationship

Orientation process

Build trust before & during care



### Communicate program policies

Communicate clearly about policies before enrollment and on-going as helpful

### Daily Communication

### Communication Child Development

Family conferences  
Home visits

### Keep lines of communication strong

- Respond to complaints
- Focus on family's perspective
- Acknowledge the parents' deep emotions

“I know this is a very important conversation and I want to talk with you in greater depth but I have other children to attend to at this time---can we schedule a time to talk when I can give you my full attention.”

“Thank you for bringing your concern to my attention, let me talk to... and get more information so I can better address this issue.”

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### More Communication Tips

**Reach Out to All**

- Make parents feel welcome
- Use Active Listening skills
- Communicate clearly
- Follow-up on issues
- Ask *HOW* questions
- Reach to ALL family members