Understanding Relationships and their Importance to Early Childhood Development

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Infant-Toddler Court Program National Resource Center

The National Infant-Toddler Court Program was made possible through the support of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$7,560,000 with 0 percent financed from non-governmental sources.

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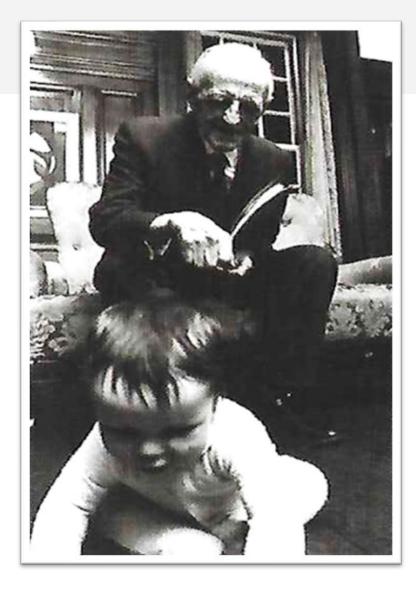


Learning Objectives

- 1. Participants will gain insight into how all development occurs in a relational context.
- 2. Participants will gain knowledge regarding needs-based, trauma-responsive, and

developmentally-informed practices.





"There is no such thing as a baby. . . A baby cannot exist alone but is essentially part of a relationship."

- D.W. Winnicott





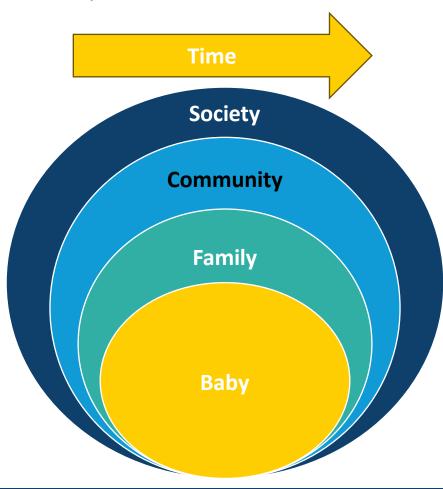
"In order to develop normally, a child requires progressively more complex joint activity with one or more adults who have an irrational emotional relationship with the child. Somebody's got to be crazy about that kid. That's number one. First, last and always."

– Urie Bronfenbrenner



A Bioecological Perspective

Individuals are influenced by factors found in all four areas of the social ecology





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Implications for early relational health





Babies in Child Welfare

In the United States, every 7 minutes a baby or toddler is removed from their parents due to maltreatment or neglect **and placed in out-of-home care.**





Risk is not fate.

Negative Outcomes **Positive Outcomes**

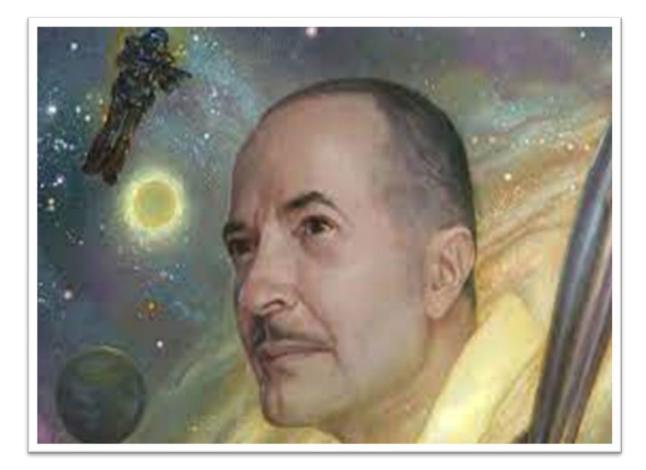


"You don't have to be a therapist to be therapeutic."

- Dr. Kristie Brandt







"A child is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark."

- Robert Heinlein



The Safe Babies Approach

IMPACT:

Enhanced Oversight Safe Babies focuses on the urgent developmental needs of young and Collaborative children during all planning and decision-making to strengthen **Problem-Solving** early relationships with parents and caregivers and to create safe, stable, and nurturing environments for babies and toddlers. Continuous Expedited, CHILD AND FAMILY CHILD Quality Appropriate, and Improvement **Effective Services** STATE AND SITE V Interdisciplinary **Collaborative and** Trauma-Responsive **Proactive Teamwork** Support





"We do not learn from experience... we learn from reflecting on experience."

- John Dewey



Thank You!

Join the collective action at: <u>zerotothree.org/SafeBabies</u>

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