CREATING MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS EVERY DAY

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SESSION OBJECTIVES:

- Present research regarding the benefits of quality infant and toddler care
- Understand how quality care affects child development
- Understand how interactions affect brain development
- Recognize the teacher’s role in making interactions meaningful for infants and toddlers every day
THE IMPORTANCE OF INFANT & TODDLER CARE

• Baby Ella video
HOW DO INTERACTIONS AFFECT BRAIN DEVELOPMENT?

85% of brain growth occurs in the first 3 years of life.
Research show that children that participate in quality early childhood programs enter kindergarten ready to learn.

- Short term benefits include:
  - Better academic and social performance
  - Lower retention rates
  - Fewer referrals to special education

- Long term benefits include:
  - Higher graduation rates
  - Increase learning potential
  - Increased participation in the labor force
What happens when a child does not receive the emotional, cognitive, and physical support they need?
WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP MAKE INFANT AND TODDLER CLASSROOMS IN LOUISIANA A PLACE TO LEARN AND THRIVE?

- Louisiana Birth to Five Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDs)
- Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scales (ITERS)
- Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)
- Teaching Strategies GOLD
- Louisiana Curriculum Initiative
WHAT ARE THE COMMON FACTORS?

Handout – Infant/Toddler Rating and Assessment Tools
WHAT MAKES AN INTERACTION EFFECTIVE?

• Highly skilled teachers
• Warm, responsive interactions between teacher and child
• A language rich environment
A study by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) quoted in the CLASS infant reliability training manual states that “in infant and toddler classrooms, ___% of teacher child interactions were rated highly effective.“
HOW DO YOUR CLASSROOM INTERACTIONS RATE?

- Activity: Classroom Self Assessment
HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE YOUR DAILY INTERACTIONS AND CREATE A LANGUAGE RICH ENVIRONMENT?

Facilitate meaningful interactions that include:

- Open Ended Questions
- Self Talk
- Parallel Talk
OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS

Activity
SELF TALK

• The teacher intentionally describes what he or she is thinking, seeing, hearing, touching or doing.

• NOT simply using “I” statements
PARALLEL TALK

• The teacher links words directly to children’s current actions or experiences

• Parallel talk is NOT simply using a “you” statement
PRACTICING SELF TALK

• Activity
PARALLEL TALK VIDEO
CONCLUSION

• Daily intentional positive interactions affect much more than your CLASS observations scores.

• A child’s formative years from birth to age five have a critical affect on future academic and life success.

• Getting children off to a strong start is the most strategic way to close the achievement gap and is far more cost-effective than remediation in later years.
THANK YOU FOR COMING!