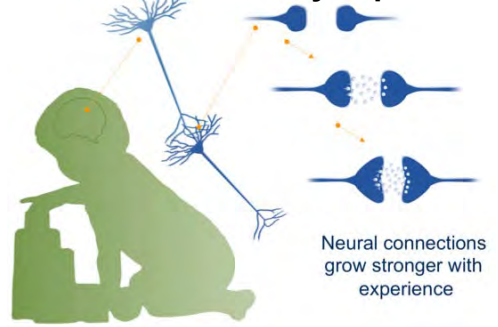


BabyTalks: Supporting Children's Early Brain Development

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Identify the growing brain as a work in progress and describe how early experiences shape the brain

- Biology and experience build the brain.
- Points of communication between neurons, or synapses, form rapidly in the developing brain.
- Every time we learn something new, we make tiny changes to how the neurons in our brain connect and communicate.
- A child's experiences shape which connections will be formed and which connections will be strengthened.
- The more often a child has an experience, whether that experience is positive or negative, the stronger those neural connections and networks will be.



Explain at least three ways to support children's learning and brain development.

Tailored, back-and-forth interactions

Share your thinking

Active, child directed learning

Model persistence

Responsive care

Create predictable routines

- Tailoring responses to a very young child's sounds and actions lets them know you heard them, and you understand that they are communicating. Together you are having a conversation!
- Sharing your thinking out loud helps babies and young children understand that your actions are based on your own thoughts, feelings, and needs.
- Just like adults, children learn best when they are actively engaged in learning that they enjoy.
- Things don't always work the first time, for babies or for adults! Showing young children that sometimes it takes (even you!) a few times to get something to work right encourages children to keep trying.
- Very young children can't yet control their impulses or regulate their own emotions. Providing regulatory support through responsive caregiving helps children feel safe as they build self-regulatory skills.
- Flexible, individualized routines help create a predictable structure in a sometimes confusing world. Children often feel more comfortable and ready to explore when they know what is going to happen next

Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center Resources

- Supporting English Language Development When Children Have Little Experience With English: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/dll-english-language-development.pdf>
- Tips For Engaging Children In Conversations: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/no-search/iss/language-modeling-and-conversations/engaging-conversation-teacher-tips.pdf>
- Early Essentials Webisode 8: Responsive Interactions: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/early-essentials-webisode-8-responsive-interactions>
- Early Essentials Webisode 6: Self Care and Professionalism: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/early-essentials-webisode-6-self-care-professionalism>
- Let's Talk About Routines: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/lets-talk-about-routines>
- Understanding Stress and Resilience in young children: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/mental-health/video/understanding-stress-resilience-young-children>
- Raising Young Children in a New Country: Supporting Early Learning and Healthy Development: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/raising-young-children-new-country.pdf>