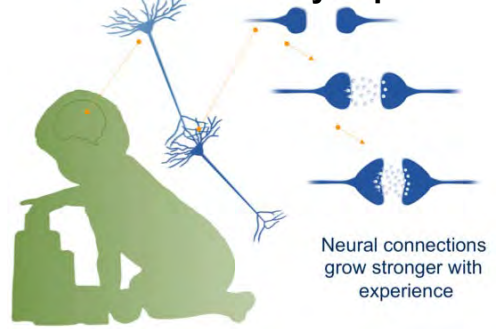


## BabyTalks: Supporting Children's Early Brain Development

### 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>