

The Importance of Early Interactions

“It is not only the skills children have when they enter school that matter for later success but also the path they followed in getting to these skills.”

– Rowe, Raudenbush, & Goldin-Meadow, 2012



Parentese



Eye gaze



Imitation



Back and forth interactions



The Take-Home

Supportive relationships are the foundation for a “school ready” child. Warm and responsive caregivers help children learn to trust others. When children trust others, they gain confidence to explore their world.



Science Says

- School-readiness starts from birth. Early cognitive and social experiences play an important role in children’s early development.
- Children are particularly attuned to other people, and learn best from face-to-face interactions.
- Children are incredibly social. Using eye gaze, pointing, parentese, and back and forth interactions between caregiver and child draws children’s attention to their environment and supports learning.



Try it at Home

- Follow your child’s lead. When she hands you a toy, playfully hand it back to her. Continue playing this back and forth game until she lets you know she’s done.
- Speak with your infant in a sing-song, exaggerated tone of voice. This is called parentese and it supports language learning. Respond to your baby’s babbles with complete sentences in parentese.

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