



# **Research to Practice: Promising Practices with Infants and Toddlers**

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ZERO TO THREE



# ***The Special Concerns of Infants and Toddlers***

- Chronic feeding or sleeping difficulties
- Inconsolable “fussiness” or irritability
- Incessant crying with little ability to be consoled
- Extreme upset when left with another adult
- Inability to adapt to new situations
- Easily startled or alarmed by routine events

*Helping Young children Succeed: Strategies to Promote Early Childhood Social and Emotional Development (Sep. 2005) Julie Cohen, Ngozi Onunaku, Steffanie Clothier, and Julie Poppe*



# ***The Special Concerns of Infants and Toddlers***

- Inability to establish relationships with other children or adults
- Excessive hitting, biting and pushing of other children or very withdrawn behavior
- Flat affect



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# ***What we know...***



- **Biology**
  - Temperament and genetics
- **Relationships**
  - Young children develop in the context of relationships
- **Environment**
  - Young children develop in the context of their environment

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# Into what we do...

## Strategies:

- Promotion
- Prevention
- Treatment/Intervention



Most successful interventions, whether they are primarily preventive or therapeutic, are based on facilitating that relationship (caregiver/child) and helping both the child and the caregiver learn to adapt successfully to each other's individuality.

# ***Understanding Early Social and Emotional Development***

- Parent Source
  - Wee Wonders
  - Tee Wonders
  - The Fussy Baby Clinic of Louisiana
- Reflective Dialogue Parent Education Design



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(September 2005, Vol 26(1)).*



# *Early Head Start*

- Early Head Start Research
  - Challenging behaviors for toddlers
  - Full implementation
- Infant Mental Health Initiative
  - Understanding the social and emotional strengths and vulnerabilities of very young children





# ***DC: 0-3 R***

- ***Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood, Revised Edition***
  - ***Addresses:***
    - ***Rapid pace of development***
    - ***Importance of early relationships***
    - ***Individual differences***
    - ***Impact of the caregiving environment***
  - ***Advance the evidence-based evolution of the system***

ZERO TO THREE.(2005). *Diagnostic classification of mental health and developmental disorders of infancy and early childhood: Revised edition (DC:0-3R)*. Washington, DC: ZERO TO THREE Press.



