



Baby Talk: Resources to Support the People Who Work With Infants and Toddlers

Issue No. 73 June 2017

Mothers and Infants Connect Through Song

As one of the first records of human music, infant-directed singing permeates cultural boundaries and parenting traditions. The act of mothers singing to infants is a universal behavior that seemingly withstands the test of time. Read about new research on this topic at <http://news.miami.edu/stories/2017/02/mothers-and-infants-connect-through-song.html>

Teaching a Toddler Social Skills

This column suggests 14 steps for supporting toddlers to develop social intelligence and build the capacity for interpersonal relationships. <https://www.mother.ly/child/teaching-your-toddler-social-skills-15-steps-to-success>

Want more ideas for supporting the social-emotional development of infants and toddlers? Go to this ZERO TO THREE site: <https://www.zerotothree.org/early-development/social-and-emotional-development>

Practical Play and Toy Guide

Many early childhood professionals believe that commercialized toys and media are threatening authentic children's play. A recently published guide for families and professionals from **TRUCE (Teachers Resisting Unhealthy Childhood Entertainment)** supports child-directed, creative play with inexpensive, simple toys that encourage imagination. http://www.truceteachers.org/uploads/1/5/5/7/15571834/truce_play_and_toy_guide_2017_final.pub.pdf

Dual Language Learners: Primed and Ready to Learn

This May 2017 fact sheet highlights the science of how infants who are exposed to more than one language manage to learn each language successfully. <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/dll-01-hearing-language-learning.pdf>

Link Between Autism and Extra Cerebrospinal Fluid?

A research network found that many toddlers diagnosed with autism at two years of age had a substantially greater amount of extra-axial cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) at six and 12 months of age, before diagnosis is possible. The more CSF at six months, the more severe the autism symptoms were at two years of age. To learn more, go to <http://news.unhealthcare.org/news/2017/march/infant-mris-show-autism-linked-to-increased-cerebrospinal-fluid>

Emergency Preparedness: Is Your Child Care Program Prepared? 10 Questions You Should Ask

Ensuring the safety of children in care settings is the most important job of early childhood professionals. This resource, which is available in English and Spanish, can be a helpful tool for families to use as they evaluate and/or communicate with their child's program about emergency preparedness. Early childhood programs may also find that the publication is a good starting point for self-evaluation of their emergency plans and processes. <http://usa.childcareaware.org/2017/03/parents-child-care-program-prepared/>

The First Sights Babies See Sculpt The Brain's Visual Circuitry

When a newborn baby opens her eyes, she does not see well at all, and it can take months for her world to come into focus. Now scientists have found more clues about what happens in the brains of baby mammals as they try to make visual sense of the world. A study, published in *Nature Neuroscience*, is part of a project to map the functions of the brain areas that play crucial roles in vision. Read more at <http://www.futurity.org/brain-visual-processing-circuitry-1332982-2/>

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