



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

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### Building Babies' Brains Through Play: Mini Parenting Master Class

By engaging in playful serve and return with a child, you can literally help build stronger connections in the brain. Strong neural connections are the foundation for all of a child's future learning, behavior, and health. In this Mini Parenting Master Class from UNICEF, Center on the Developing Child Director Jack P. Shonkoff, M.D., explains the importance of serve and return interactions like play—and how easy they are to do, especially through practice! Companion resources (handouts, videos, and research) are provided at <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/building-babies-brains-through-play-mini-parenting-master-class/>

### Small Steps for Big Vision: An Eye Health Information Tool Kit for Parents and Caregivers

The National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness partnered with the National Head Start Association to create this online resource to provide families and caregivers with the information, suggested actions, and assistance they need to be empowered partners in their children's vision and eye health, and to care for their own vision and eye health. Learn more at [https://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/small-steps-for-big-vision/?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](https://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/small-steps-for-big-vision/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)

### First Steps to Promote Good Behavior

What parents and teachers do when children are **not** acting out may be the first step to promoting good behavior. Developmental psychologist, Ed Feil, PhD, studies "First Step Next," a school and home-based intervention program that redirects focus from negative behavior to more positive behavior by providing positive feedback when kids are behaving well. Giving kids a pat on the back or telling them what a good job they're doing can help improve positive social skills and decrease negative behaviors. Learn more by reading/watching in English or Spanish at <https://positiveparentingnews.org/news-reports/first-steps-to-promote-good-behavior/>

### Guides to Including Young Children with Disabilities in STEM Learning Opportunities

The [STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education Center \(STEMIE\)](#) recently released two guides on including young children with disabilities in STEM learning opportunities.

- **A Guide to Adaptations** This guide provides information on how adults can make adaptations to support the access and full participation of young children in STEM learning opportunities. The guide focuses on environment (e.g., room set-up, equipment, how an activity is done, length of time), materials (e.g., adaptations to toys, materials, assistive technology devices), and instruction (e.g., add information, reduce steps). [https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/guide-adaptations?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/guide-adaptations?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)
- **A Guide to Teaching Practices** This guide shares practices used by adults (e.g., family members, practitioners) or, in some instances, by other children to help facilitate children's participation in everyday routines, learning experiences, and activities. Using these strategies engages children in activities, maintains their interest, and provides opportunities for them to learn concepts and thinking skills that support STEM learning when using adaptations is not a sufficient support. [https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/guide-teaching-practices?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/guide-teaching-practices?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)

### GUMDROP: "What if I was to tell you that a game of peek-a-boo could change the world?"

Enjoy this TED Talk presented by the world's youngest-ever TED Talk speaker, 7-year-old Molly Wright, as she discusses what playful things grown-ups can do to support brain development and help children thrive by age five. [https://www.ted.com/talks/molly\\_wright\\_how\\_every\\_child\\_can\\_thrive\\_by\\_five](https://www.ted.com/talks/molly_wright_how_every_child_can_thrive_by_five)

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