SUPPORTING INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH PLAY

Wellbeing = Brain + Body

WHAT WE CAN DO?

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PRENATAL Before Birth)	INFANTS (Birth to 17 months)	TODDLERS (18-29 months
ing, talk and read to Your baby while you Ire pregnant.	Make infant massage part of your day for example, after a bath.	When you play your toddler lee be the leader. Play Hide and S games. Sing songs toge Read stories to Provide specific E.g., "I like the p
Gently touch or rub Your belly and tell Your baby that you OVE them.	Soothe and respond to your infant with love and nurturing kindness.	
ake part in prenatal exercise. E.g., yoga, awimming.	Share smiles and show you care when your baby needs comforting.	
	Skin to skin contact helps to create a special bond with your baby.	
	Pick up and gently rock your baby.	
	Imitate your child's actions and sounds.	
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PRESCHOOLERS

(30-48 months)

When you play with our toddler let them be the leader.

(18-29 months)

Play Hide and Seek games.

Sing songs together.

Read stories together.

Provide specific praise. E.g., "I like the way vou turned the page."

Sing, read and tell stories together.

Talk about things that happened throughout the day, especially positive experiences.

Praise vour child's actions when they do something you like.

Praise your preschooler with high fives, hugs and pats on the back.

Have your child tell you a story from the pictures in a book.

Introduce new words to your child, by naming objects, actions and feelings.

Plan and take your child to an EarlyON Centre for other experiences.

FOR ALL AGES

Tell your child you I OVF them.

Plav Face to Face games. E.g., Peek-A-**Boo, Round and Round** the Garden, Head and Shoulders

Hug and respond in a loving way to your child.

You cannot spoil a child with affection.

Find time to play daily with your child.



RESOURCES

BOOKS

Look at family pictures and talk about them with your child. Tell them your family stories.

The Sharing Circle by Theresa 'Corky" Larsen- Jonasson

I Am Enough by Grace Byers

Yoga Babies by Fearne Cotton and Sheena Dempsey

SONGS

Beautiful Noodle by Tyler Check and Tristan Hernandez It's OK (Please just Say)

VIRTUAL

Video on Wellbeing For Children: Identity And Values Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion

DID YOU KNOW?

Wellbeing in the brain is an on-going process.

We thank the team of dedicated professionals in the Etobicoke Brighter Futures Coalition that developed these IEMH Play Statements

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Positive physical touch provides opportunities for gentle and loving time together.