

In the last year or so, a number of new and excellent resources related to learning about and supporting infants and toddlers have been developed and made available at no cost. This issue shares several of them.

Instructional Modules Available from I-LABS <https://modules.ilabs.uw.edu/learning-modules/>

The I-LABS Outreach and Education talent pool at the University of Washington has produced free learning modules that take an in-depth look at the science of child development. Modules include 20-25 minute narrated PowerPoints with embedded videos, plus a discussion guide and handout. There are over 20 topics including The Importance of Early Interactions, Understanding Emotions, Language Development: Learning the Sounds of Language, Bilingual Language Development, Temperament in Early Childhood, Foundations of Literacy, Development of Literacy, Early Music Experience, Early STEM Learning, Early Numeracy, How Play Helps Math Learning, Spatial Skills and Reasoning, Learning to Make Things Happen, Race Today: What Kids Know as They Grow, and "Racing" Towards Equality: Why Talking to Your Kids About Race is Good for Everyone.

Recognizing and Addressing Trauma in Infants, Young Children, and their Families

<https://www.ecmhc.org/tutorials/trauma/index.html>

The purpose and overall goal of this tutorial is to help professionals who work with young children to understand what is meant by trauma, recognize the developmental context of trauma in early childhood, and extend their own knowledge for intervention through consultation. The tutorial is designed to take 30-40 minutes and includes all audiovisual materials and handouts, as well as additional resources.

Curriculum Modifications for Infants and Toddlers

<https://headstartinclusion.org/training-materials/professional-development-packages/curriculum-modifications-for-infants-and-toddlers/?cid=cb4331b1cd5aab3d1754d6a59ec5b60e>

These resources were developed to provide information about curriculum modifications and adaptations for infants and toddlers. Examples include modifications that can be used in a variety of home and program settings. The resources include a set of presentation slides, presenter notes, and additional resources on choosing modifications, types of modifications, and child vignettes for use in professional development.

The Power of Fathers: A Concept Paper on Fatherhood, Father Engagement, and Early Childhood

<https://www.irvingharrisfdn.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Father-Engagement-Concept-Paper-FINAL.pdf>

This paper is designed to provide a brief overview of the research supporting fathers' wide-ranging contributions to healthy child development. It also shines a spotlight on innovative father engagement programs that address systemic and personal barriers. Finally, the paper closes with program, policy, and research recommendations to advance fathers as key stakeholders in family strengthening programming and to support the full participation of fathers in their families and communities.

Early Learning Professional Development Modules http://resourcesforearlylearning.org/educators_pd/

Explore practices in early education through these engaging, content-rich modules. Take the 45-minute self-paced version or download the Facilitator's Guide to lead a 1-1/2 to 2-hour training. There are five infant-toddler modules: The Roots of Early Learning, Supporting Young Infants' Learning, Supporting Older Infants' Learning, Supporting Young Toddlers' Learning, and Supporting Older Toddlers' Learning.

Why Do We Focus on the Prenatal-to-3 Age Period? Understanding the Importance of the Earliest

Years https://pn3policy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/PN3PolicyImpactCenter_B001202101_WhyFocusonPN3.pdf

The human brain grows most rapidly in the first three years of life, and an individual's health and well-being during that period has lifelong consequences. This document provides a comprehensive, easy-to-read overview of the science of the developing child, and what it means for parents, caregivers, and society to ensure children get a strong and equitable start.

Discover the STEMIE Infant and Toddler Resources

<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/>

The STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Intervention (STEMIE) center is a federally-funded knowledge development and technical assistance center funded to support practitioners, families, and faculty with improving confidence and competence in including and engaging young children with disabilities (birth to five) in high-quality **STEM** (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) experiences. Here's one way to begin exploring the wealth of new resources from this exciting project. Go to the **Resources** section (<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/resources>), scroll down the left hand column until you come to **Developmental Stages**, select **Birth-2**, and watch as seven new resources pop up. Then start exploring on your own as there's much, much more.

Rocking and Rolling <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/rocking-and-rolling>

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has an excellent website and one of my favorite features is the Rocking and Rolling section. Several times a year the talented team at ZERO TO THREE authors a new Rocking and Rolling article. For example, the November 2020 article was called Rocking and Rolling: Fostering Curiosity in Infants and Toddlers. It featured recent research about the importance of curiosity, and offered great tips for nurturing it. Check out the November 2017 issue which has suggestions for addressing bias in infant and toddler programs.

Connecting Research to Practice: Tips for Working with Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/teaching-practices/article/connecting-research-practice-tips-working-infants-toddlers-their-families>

This series of research-to-practice briefs covers a variety of topics related to early learning and child development. The briefs provide an accessible and usable overview of recent research as well as resources for families. Early childhood educators can use these briefs to learn more about current research on early childhood development. Each brief includes a review of the latest research along with effective practices for home and early learning settings. Topics range from brilliant bilingual babies and designing messy play for infants and toddlers to infant/toddler behaviors that can challenge adults.

Importance of Home Language Series

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/importance-home-language-series>

This series of handouts is designed to provide early childhood professionals and families with basic information on topics related to children learning two or more languages. They emphasize the benefits of being bilingual, the importance of maintaining home language, and the value of becoming fully bilingual. These easy-to-read resources highlight important information that every adult living or working with young children who are dual language learners should know.

BabyTalk: A Monthly One-Way Listserv of Infant and Toddler Resources

BabyTalk is a curated, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features high quality, readily available, and free resources. Typically each issue includes some new research, at least one resource that is also in Spanish, and lots of new information for families and professionals. To receive BabyTalk each month, contact Camille Catlett (camille.catlett@unc.edu) with your name and email address.

Gumdrop: Every Baby Communicates in Unique Ways <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrqJRzbyiOk>

I call short, engaging videos that pack a content punch "gumdrops." This gumdrop takes a humorous look at how to decipher some of the subtle messages babies are sending.

Natural Resources is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features high quality, readily available, and free resources on a specific topic related to children from birth through Grade 3, their families, and the professionals and systems that serve and support them. Natural Resources is compiled and distributed by Camille Catlett, and past issues are archived at <https://scriptnc.fpg.unc.edu/natural-resources-monthly-newsletter> To subscribe or unsubscribe, suggest resources, or get more information, please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu