



Child Development

**OCWTP
FOSTER CARE, KINSHIP CARE, AND
ADOPTION PRESERVICE TRAINING**

A clipboard with a brown border and a silver clip at the top. The paper is white and contains a checklist.

CHECKLIST

☐ Expectations

☐ Discipline

☐ Interactions

☐ Concerns

☐ _____

“What happens during the first months and years of life **matters a lot**...because it sets either a sturdy or fragile stage for what follows.”



Neurons to Neighborhoods

You will be able to:

- ✓ **Identify the three primary social and emotional developmental tasks of young children**
- ✓ **Describe what is meant by brain plasticity**
- ✓ **Identify factors that can enhance early childhood development and promote well-being**

A red square with a black border containing the number 1 in a bold, black, serif font.

*Recognize the impact trauma has
had on your child*

**What
is
typical?**





**Development
is fluid**



Physical

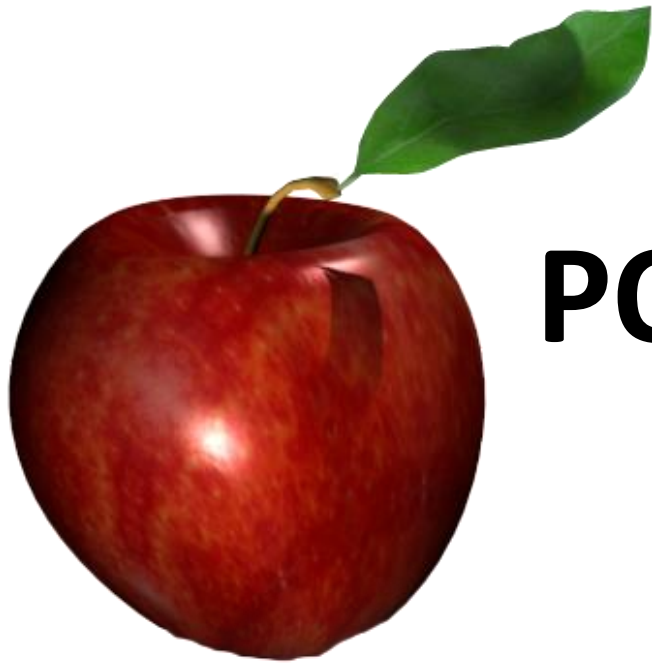


Cognitive



Social and Emotional





POTENTIAL

RISK





- ✓ Be aware of your diversity
- ✓ Ask clarifying questions
- ✓ Know where to access information
- ✓ Take more training

Primary social and emotional tasks



A close-up, warm-toned photograph of a young man with dark hair kissing a young woman with curly hair on the cheek. The woman is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. The man's face is partially visible in profile as he leans in to kiss her. The background is a soft, out-of-focus yellowish-brown.

ATTACHMENT

I can have relationships

SELF- REGULATION

I can
control
my
emotions



A young child, wearing a dark winter jacket and a beanie, is hanging from monkey bars at a playground. The child is looking upwards with a focused expression. The background is a soft-focus view of a park with trees and a body of water under a warm, golden light.

INITIATIVE

I can do
it myself

Initial social emotional tasks



Set the course



Relationship-
based



Internal
protective factors

Sitting still



Resisting impulses

Using tools proper way

Sharing



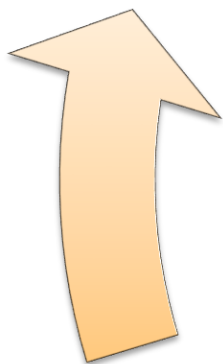
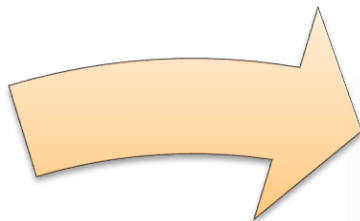
Showing affection

Talking through issues

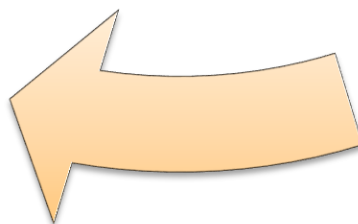
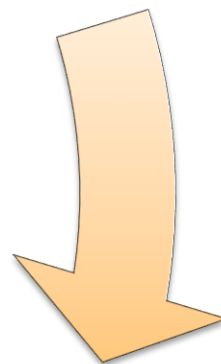


A diagram illustrating a structural attachment. It features a brown outline of a house with a gabled roof and a chimney on the left side. The base of the house is connected to a foundation made of three rows of tan bricks. The word "attachment" is written in bold black text across the middle of the brick foundation.

attachment



Trust/Attachment





Attunement

Trust

“Safe and
predictable”
worldview



- Comfortable exploring
- Prefer caregiver
- Seek help

7? 14?





Regulate the
child in infancy



Shift responsibility
to the child



Routines

Close physical
contact

Typical behavior-
shaping
strategies

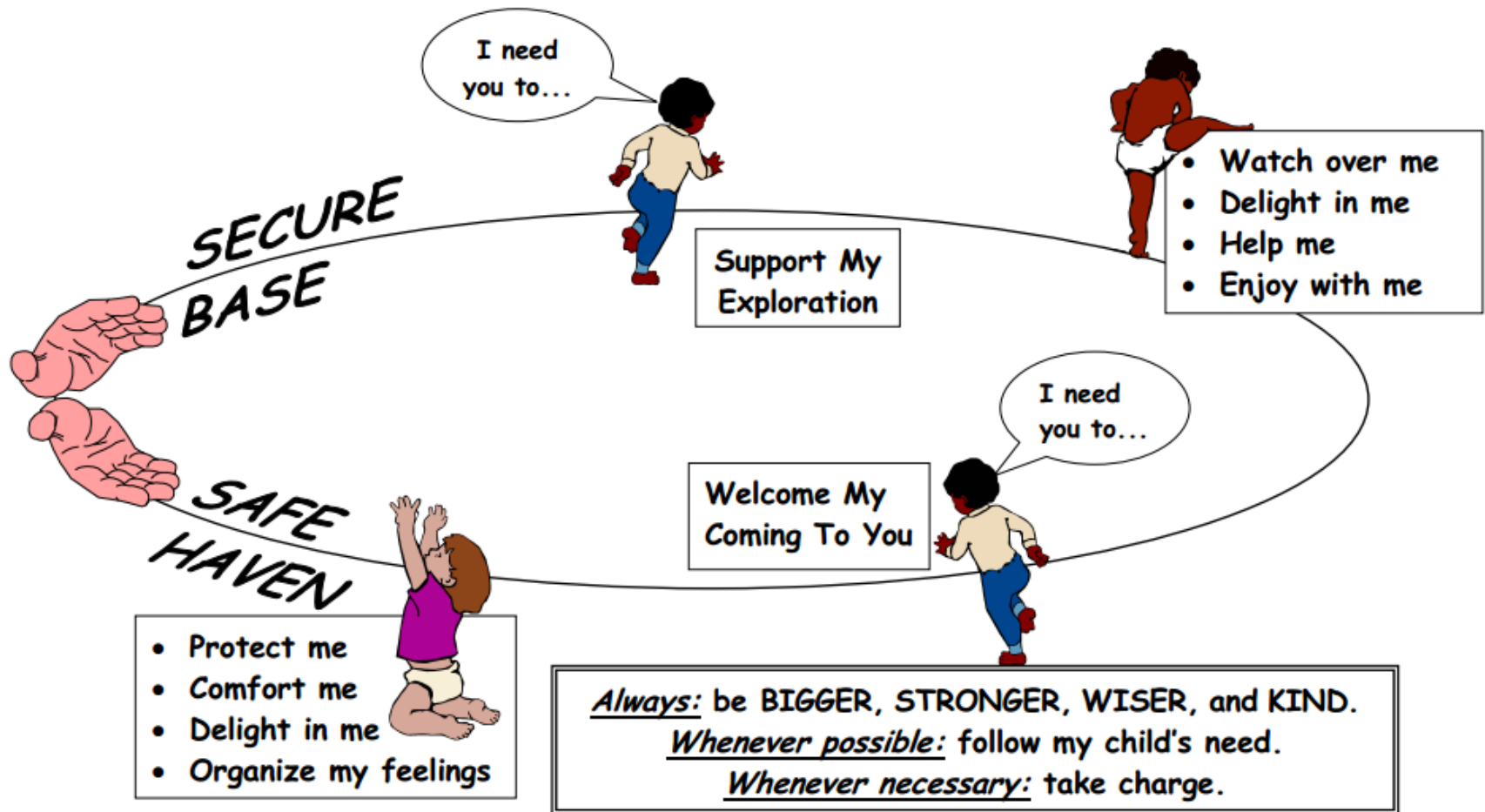
Self Regulation Scenarios

1. A girl is flirting with her friend's boyfriend, then notices her friend is watching and looks sad.
2. A child is sitting at the kitchen table and really struggling with math homework.
3. A child sees Sno-Cones for sale across the street, but has been told by her parent to wait until she finishes her conversation with a friend.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small, rectangular, light-colored card. The card has a slightly textured, deckled edge. The text "Signs of Initiative" is printed on the card in a black, sans-serif font, arranged in two lines. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, with the thumb and index finger gripping the card. The background is a plain, light gray.

Signs of
Initiative

Circle of Security



#1

Provide
a secure
base

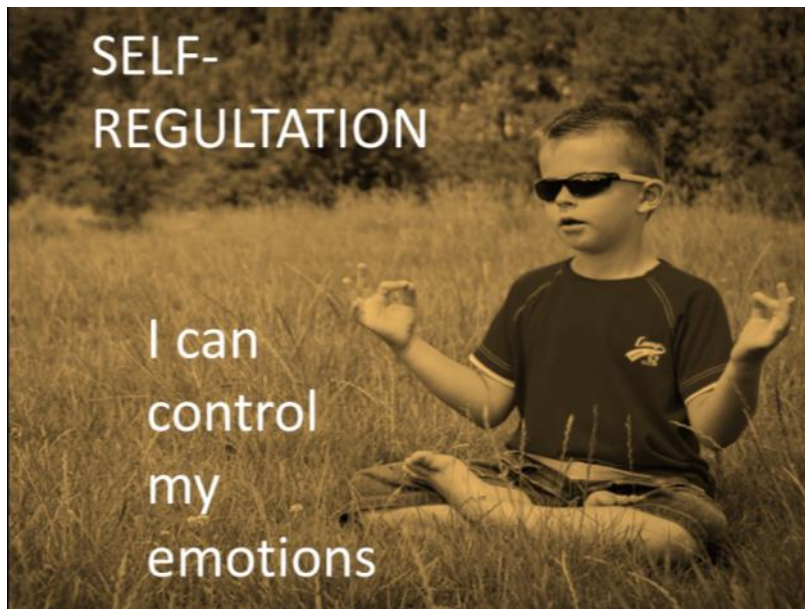


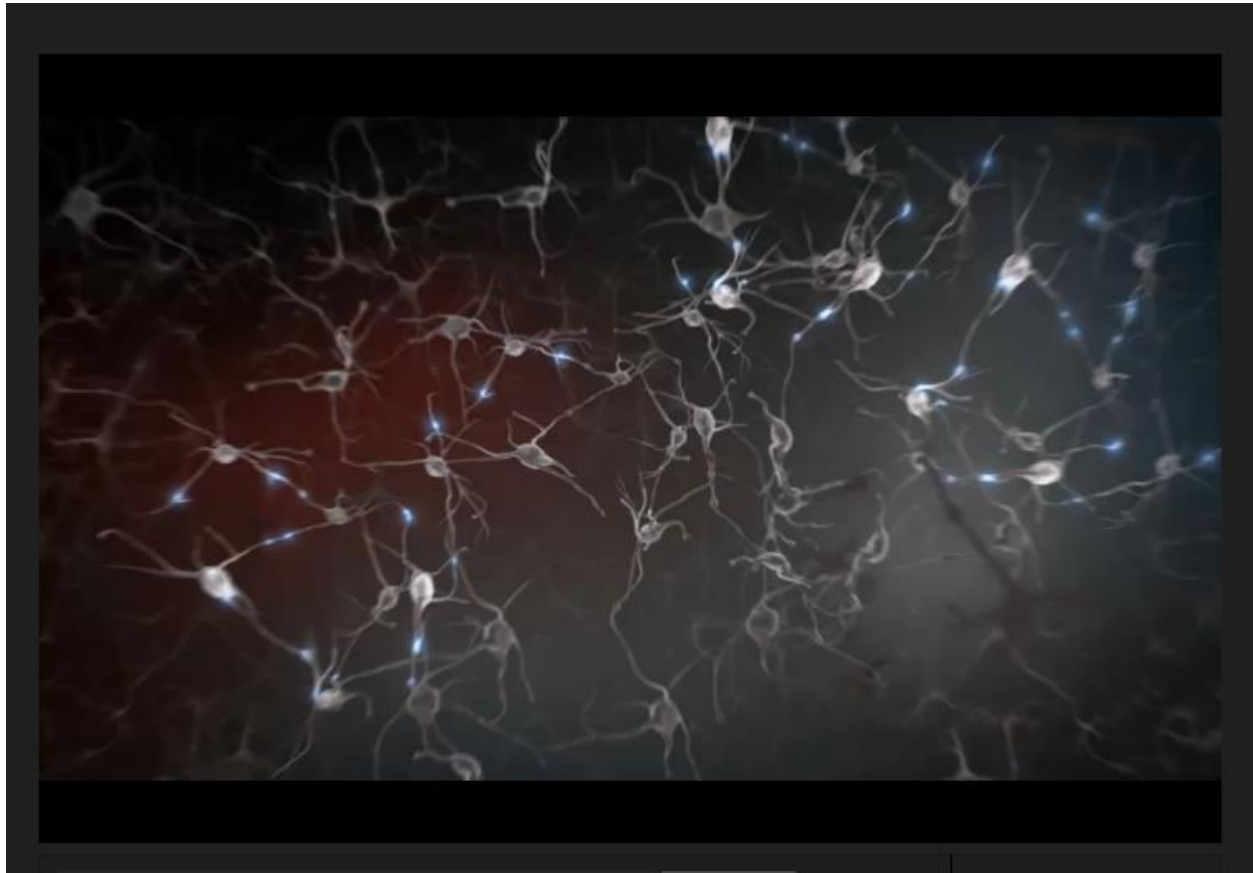


#2
Provide
a safe
haven

Attunement

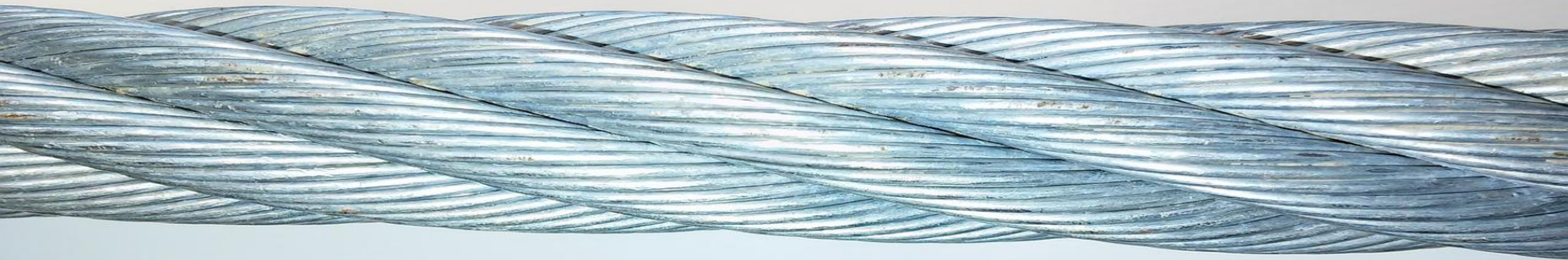






KEY CONCEPTS: BRAIN ARCHITECTURE

“The neurons that fire
together wire together.”



-Sejnowski, 1989

BRAIN PLASTICITY





Cortex-
logic



Limbic
system-
emotion



Spinal cord &
brainstem -
survival





**The Adolescent
Brain –
a work in progress**



Rational
Thought

Emotions



**Good
Nutrition**




PROTECTIVE FACTORS

You can try ...



...or you
can help



- 
- Resilient
 - Strong social connections
 - Knowledgeable about parenting strategies and child development
 - Access to concrete supports

- 
- Attachment
 - Self-Regulation
 - Initiative



Normalcy



Prudent Parent Standard



Transfer of

LEARNING

LEARNING



1

The three main social and emotional developmental tasks of young children are attachment, initiative, and self-regulation

2

Brain plasticity refers to the ability of the brain to change in response to experiences

3

Attachment, self-regulation,
and initiative are
internal protective factors



Thank you!

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Fundamentals of Fostering

- Fostering Self-Reliance in Children and Youth: Roots and Wings
- Child Development Fundamentals
- Early Childhood Development
- Development of School Age Children
- Adolescent Development
- Healthy Sexual Development
- The Role of Caregivers in Healthy Sexual Development



- Youth Development: The Vital Link
- Life Long Connections: Permanency for Older Youth
- Engaging Youth in Transition Planning