
Peter L. Mangione, WestEd
Lisa Duerr, CDE, Child Development Division

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Essential Policies of High-Quality Infant/Toddler Care Programs

- Responsive, Personalized Care that takes into consideration individual differences
- Primary Care
- Culturally Responsive Care
- Inclusive Care
- Small groups
- Continuity of Care

High-Quality Programs Include:

- collaborative planning with families
- responsive interactions that help children develop emotionally secure relationships with their infant/toddler care teachers
- environments and experiences that encourage active, playful exploration and experimentation
- specific accommodations and adaptations for children with special needs

Overview of the Foundations
The Foundations...

Describe the knowledge and skills that all young children typically exhibit:

- at around 8 months of age, at around 18 months of age, and at around 36 months of age;
- with appropriate support; and
- when attending a high-quality infant/toddler program.

Introduction

Points to Consider

- The purpose of the foundations is to promote understanding of infants’ and toddlers’ learning and development
- The Foundations describe “What” children learn
- Curriculum focuses on “How To” support children’s learning

Introduction

Points to Consider, cont.

- Children are different and may not demonstrate the behaviors in the examples exactly as they are stated.
- When taking an in-depth look at a domain, one needs to keep in mind that, for babies and toddlers, learning is a very integrated experience.
Infant/Toddler Foundations
Guiding Principles

- The family and its culture and language play a central role in learning and development.
- Infancy is a unique stage of life that is important in its own right.
- Infants and toddlers are competent yet vulnerable at every stage of development.

Infant/Toddler Foundations
Guiding Principles, cont.

- Emotions drive early learning. Infants and toddlers are active and curious learners. Infants and toddlers learn in a holistic way, rather than one domain at a time.
- Early development includes both quantitative and qualitative change.
- Early reflects an interplay of differentiation and integration.

Infant/Toddler Learning & Development
Foundations

- Social-Emotional Development
- Perceptual and Motor Development
- Cognitive Development
- Language Development
Universal Design for Learning

- Supports programs in their efforts to foster learning and development for all children
- Provides opportunities for children to follow different pathways to learning
- Provides for the use of multiple approaches to learning

Universal Design for Learning, cont.

- Provides information in a variety of ways so that the learning needs of all of the children are met
- Allows for use of alternative methods to demonstrate what they know or feel
- Provides choices for activities that facilitate learning by building on children’s interests

“How To’s” of Supporting Learning and Development of Infants and Toddlers

Effective curriculum includes:

- Creating relationships with families that include ongoing dialogue about supporting their children’s learning and development;
- Developing emotionally secure relationships with infants and toddlers that become the base for their exploration and learning;
- Engaging in a reflective process that includes observation, documentation, planning, and implementation;
- Providing safe, yet developmentally challenging learning environments and materials; and
- Establishing predictable care routines in which the child is an active partner in carrying out each routine.
Chapter One: The Early Months

- The Newborn
- The Three- to Four-Month-Old Infant
- Interpreting and Responding to Early Development

Each Domain Covered in a Chapter

- Introduction
- Discussion of Research Base for Each Foundation
- Foundations
- References
Small Group Discussion

- What did the infant care teacher do to support the children’s learning and development that you observed in this DVD Clip?

- How do the environment and materials support children’s learning and development that you observed in this DVD Clip?

- How might I use the CA the infant/toddler learning and development foundations to support social-emotional development?
Holistic Nature of Infant/Toddler Learning & Development

What foundations did you see in action in this DVD Clip?

Closing Thoughts

What questions do I now have about the California infant/toddler learning & development foundations?