

Impact of COVID-19 on Young Children's Socio-emotional Development

ARNEC Webinar: Young Children Amidst COVID-19 | 30th April 2020 Prof. Marc de Rosnay | Early Start | University of Wollongong | Australia



Foundations of socio-emotional development

The importance of relationships and interactions





16 A few seconds later, and William's expression has brightened; Helen follows his change of mood with a smile.



17 Helen's smile broadens as William's active enjoyment of the conversation intensifies...

Murray & Andrews (2001)

Attachment Foundational Relationships

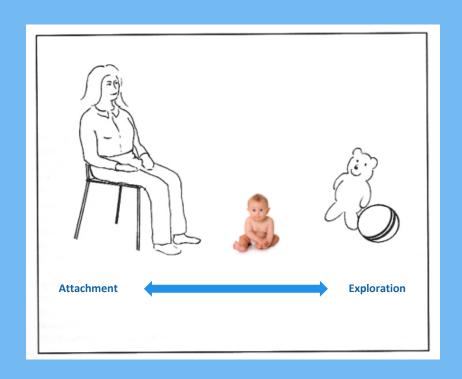
- Attachment is universal
- Attachment is a need



Attachment

Foundational Relationships

- Attachment is universal
- Attachment is a need
- Attachment forms the basis of our sense of safety and security
- Attachment provides us with a foundation from which to explore a potentially dangerous world!



Interactions

Learning through and with others

- The infant and young child is 'built' to learn through interaction with others
- Even the very young infant produces and recognizes emotional displays as inherently meaningful
- Communicative interactions can begin in the first few weeks of life (assuming normal gestational period and birth) and quickly become dyadic



(Trevarthen & Aitken, 2001)

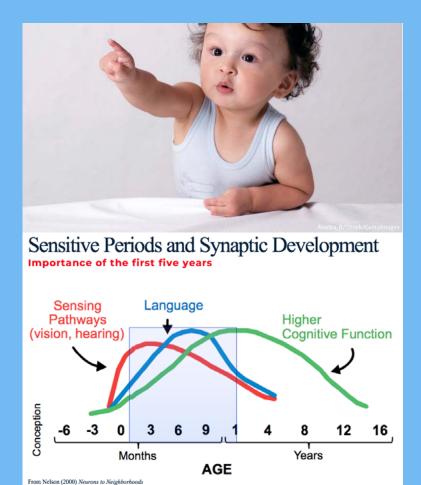




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- Long before infants can talk, they can learn about the world (people, places, things) from other people; Social Referencing
- Infant's receptive language ability far outstrips their productive ability; the architecture of language is in place by the end of the first year



What is our conception of the young child?

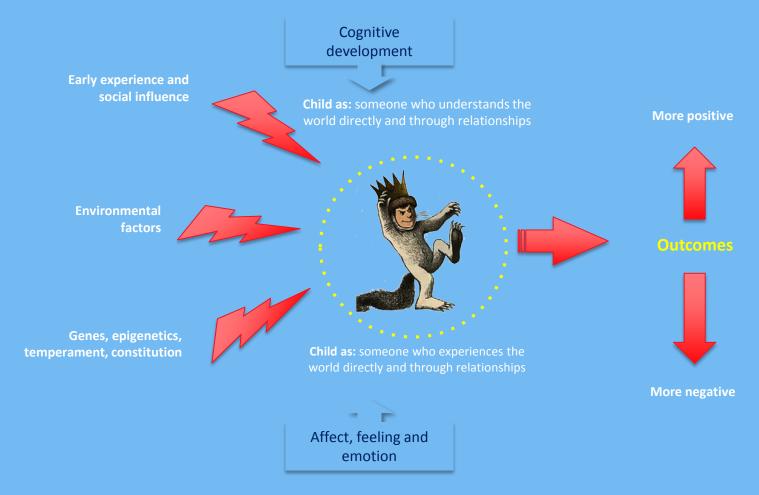
Why it matters how we think about young children and their capacities







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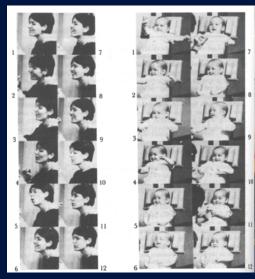
The conception of the young child that supports development is as a whole person with his or her own point of view, relationships, interests and experiences.

This child is someone who can quickly make his or her own contribution to social activity and take an interest in or find motivation in his or her own pursuits, and the pursuits of others.

This child is inherently intelligent and socially switched on to others.

Three big ideas

Observation, structure and communication





(Trevarthen, 1979)

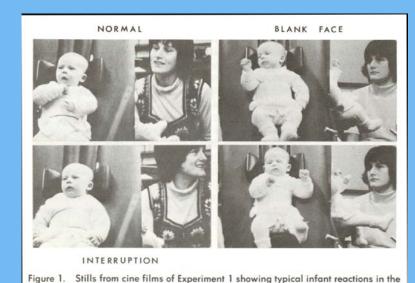
(Highscope Classroom, NJ, 2018)

Observation

A foundation for understanding children and the impact of our actions on children

Key ideas

- We can learn a great deal about children by taking a step back an observing their actions, listening to their questions, and giving them room to express themselves through play and other activities
- We can also learn a great deal about children (and ourselves) by reflecting on the impact of our own behaviors and communications on them
- Observation is not a magic tool to understand the minds of children, rather it helps us ask good questions about how they are interacting with and understanding the world
- In a COVID-19 world, we can use observation as a powerful tool to see the world from a child's point of view



three conditions.

Structure

A mechanism to establish a sense of safety and security, and give children a sense of control

- Young children are building up their self-regulatory abilities and their autonomy, these are major facets of their developing socioemotional competence
- By providing children with appropriate and predictable structures

 in terms of relationships, routines and environments we
 support their sense of safety and security, and their emerging
 capacity to take responsibility for their own activities
- When children feel confident in the structures that support them, we can give them more autonomy and self-determination; supporting resilience
- In a COVID-19 world, many of the core structures that children depend on may have been violated or threatened; it is a priority to restore these as best we can



Communication

The tools we have to understand each other, express our needs, commune through shared experiences, and learn about the world

- Young children become better and better at understanding others; they build up a model of people as actors who do things because of their traits, desires, beliefs, knowledge, motives, etc.
- More than anything else, it is shared communicative interactions and language development that enable children to develop a sophisticated understanding of others; young children are learning how to communicate, and we can be their guides
- Young children are strongly influenced by the characteristics of the people around them and the ways in which they interact
- In a COVID-19 world, communication is a key tool to both transmit information AND help children come to terms with a complex world
- In a COVID-19 world, the characteristics and behaviors of the people children communicate with are as important as what they say







The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

Get 1 year for \$29

Sections =

'What happens if you and daddy die?'

Children of doctors and nurses have kept anguished journals, written parents goodbye letters and created detailed plans in case they never see their moms or dads again



The pointy end

Dealing with children's difficult questions and their upsetting behaviors

Just like you, a child deserve to have his/her concerns and questions taken seriously.

It is sometimes difficult, however, to know how to respond to a child's questions, which might be scary.

It can also be very upsetting when a child's behavior deteriorates, especially when we might feel that we need them to behave 'well'.

There is no perfect response to a child who is expressing distress, whether through their questions or their behaviors, but here are some good things to remember:

- some good things to remember:
 Understanding takes time and a child may need to re-visit things again
- It is important to be honest with a child and reassure them in ways that are authentic

and again in his/her activities (e.g., play) and through his/her questions

 Try not to burden children with your own anxieties, rather give them a framework to think about what is going on, and to express themselves

Socio-emotional development is a journey and we serve children well when we stand next to them and they trust us to provide them with care and information that helps them to come to terms with the world as it is.





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earlystart.uow.edu.au









Support children cope with stress and fear? Listening to the voices of children

Thuong Nguyen - Plan International Vietnam



Covid-19 epidemic in Vietnam

Jan 22 - April 25

- 270 contracted
- 50 under treatment
- 220 recovered
- 0 death
- Test > 200k
- Quarantined > 52k

Children affected

- 13 children age
 0 18 (M 4 F
 9)
- All recovered, none from Plan Vietnam's working sites

Schools closure since February

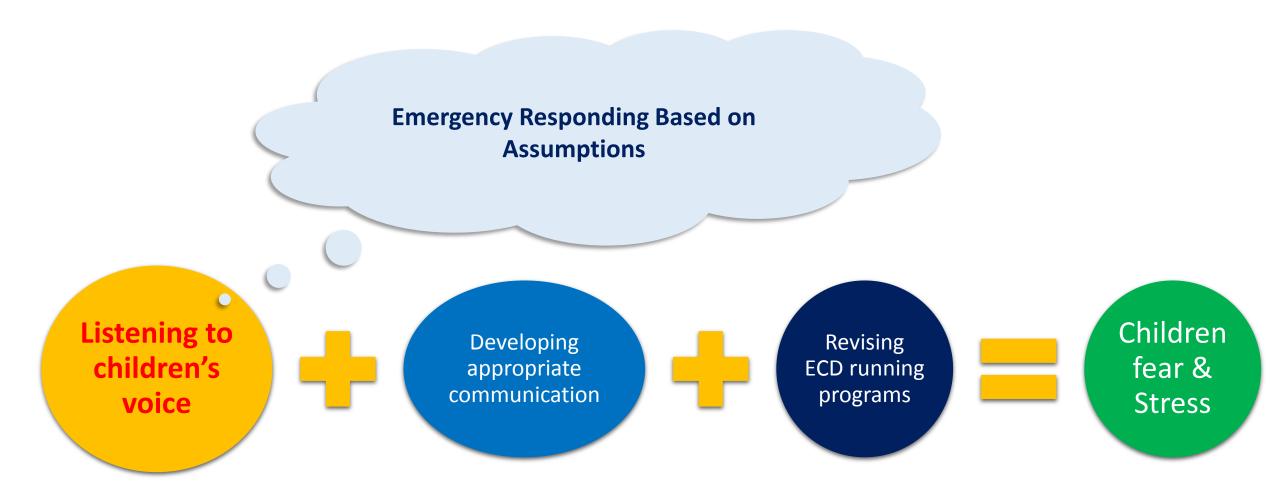
Strictly – totally social distancing

Overwhelmed with continuous and threatening news on media

Online teaching since Mar, but EM & mountainous children have limit internet access



Addressing Children's Fear and Stress





Listening To Children Voice

Facebook competition

Self-participate of urban & rural children of all Plan Vietnam projects

Sponsorship Letters

Community volunteers collect from sponsorship children in rural areas

Telephone survey

 Plan Vietnam staff call to selected 100 ethnic minority children in Plan Vietnam sites



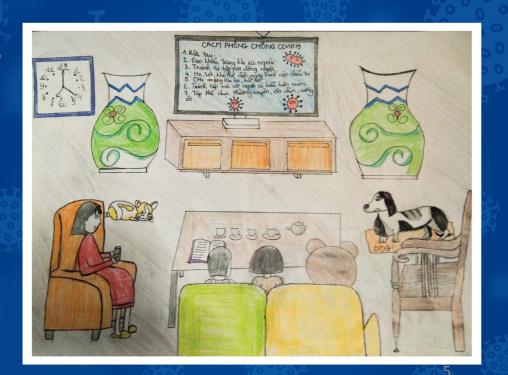
Listen To Children Voice – Facebook competition

Online contest "In-house diary", where you can share about your day during the time when everyone practices social distancing to prevent Covid-19. From writing, drawing, making a poem, video recording etc.



I ALSO KNOW TWO GIRLS
WHO HAVE JUST GOT
MARRIED DURING THIS
TIME OF COVID-19. EARLY
MARRIAGE CAN AFFECT
SEVERAL ASPECTS OF
THEIR LIVES, ESPECIALLY
WHEN THEY'RE
FINANCIALLY UNSTABLE.





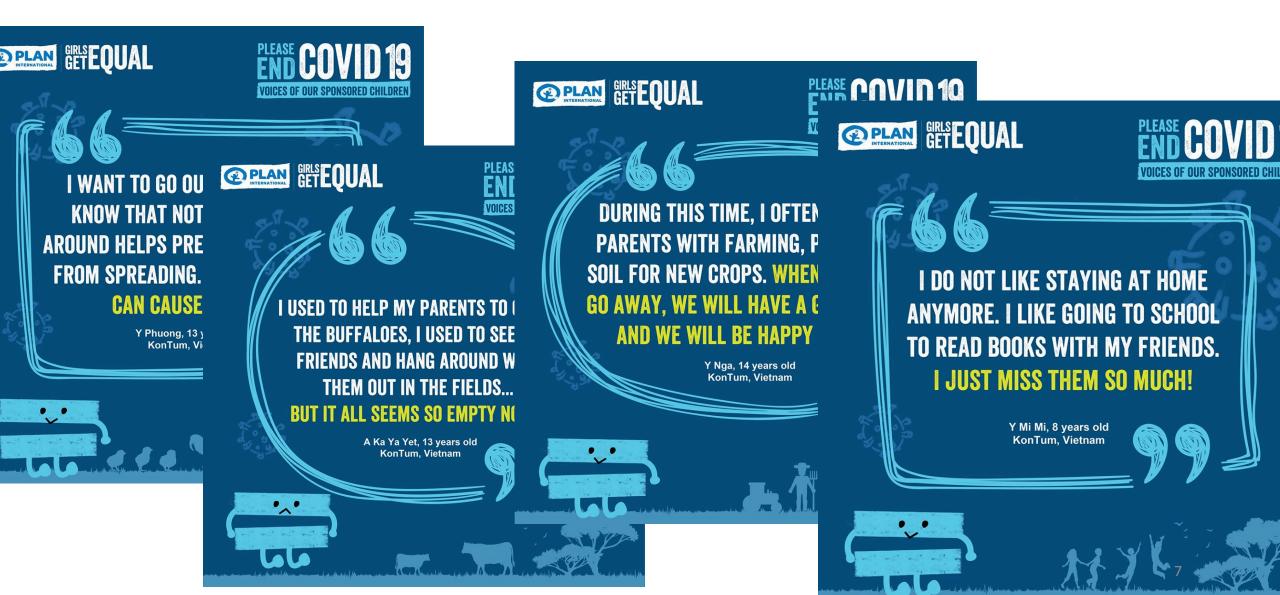


PLAN GIRLS EQUAL

Listening To Children Voice – Sponsorship Letters



Listening To Children Voice – Telephone survey





Appropriate communication – Redesign ECD Program

Appropriate communication

- ✓ Launching a competition of parents on toys making and more time playing with their children
- ✓ Developing clips for children & parents guiding on online learning, house safety, preventing sexual harassment, making toys for children with local and recycle material
- ✓ Developing leaflets, posters on Covid-19 prevention, responsive parenting in the pandemic time

Redesign ECD Program

✓ Strengthening hygiene promotion, school-community based education, psychological support, female & household economic empowerment



THANK YOU!





Supporting Caregivers in the Time of COVID19

Efforts of the Philippine Early Childhood Care & Development Council

Contexts



Philippines

- Entire Luzon, as well as some areas in Visayas and Mindanao have been on Enhanced Community
 Quarantine since March 17
- Classes have since been suspended
- Work from home

ECCD Council

- Concerned with children aged o to 4 years
- No regional/local offices
- Dissemination through Facebook

Rationale



- Child anxiety in the time of COVID19
 - Change in routines
 - Parental anxiety
- Materials should target caregivers
 - Concrete suggestions about things they can be in control of
 - Encourage mindfulness over and participation in child development

How we want to help caregivers

- Help parents create an environment of trust where children feel comfortable expressing how they feel
- Give parents a tool (i.e. play) to understand who their child is as an individual
 - Development
 - Strengths and weaknesses
 - Interests and preferences
 - Personality

ECCD Bingo Cards



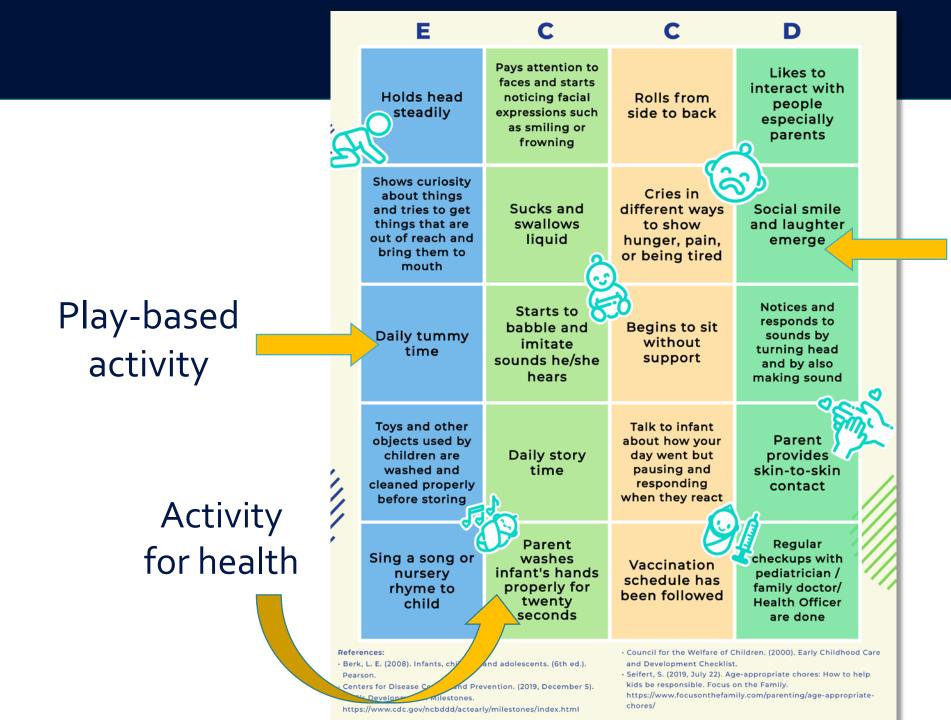




ECCD

English Reached 36,549

Bisaya Reached 5,162 Chavacano Reached 1,148





Developmental milestone

ECCD Bingo Cards





Filipino Reached 19,852

Ilocano Reached 4,112

Family Activities



SUMAYAW

ECCD COUNCIL



Reached 21,666

Family Activities

MAGBASA NG LIBRO



0-6 buwan Na maikli ang kwento



7-12 buwanAt hayaang magturo ng mga larawan



1-2 taon Na siya ang pumili



2-3 taon At magtanong tungkol sa kwento



3-4 taon Na siya ang nagsulat/gumuhit

MAGKWENTUHAN



0-6 buwan Habang binibihisan si baby



7-12 buwan At makinig din sa kwento niya



ECCD COUNCIL

1-2 taon Hintayin ang kanyang sagot



2-3 taon Habang naglalaro siya



3-4 taon Habang kumakain

Looking Forward

ECCD COUNCIL

College & Destalding

- Continuation of Parent Engagement even after Community Quarantine/Pandemic
 - Explore offline media as online information dissemination has limited reach
 - To make messages more accessible, continuation of translations for materials is ideal

Maraming salamat!

Thank you very much!

