



Responsive Caregiving

What is responsive caregiving?

Responsive caregiving is the foundation of quality infant and toddler care. It involves creating an environment that is safe and predictable supported by sensitive, caring, and dependable interactions between child and caregiver. Each time you hold and soothe a crying baby, sit on the floor and roll a ball with a toddler, or take a baby out of the crib when she or he wakes, you are providing responsive caregiving.

Why is it important?

Research shows that healthy brain development in young children depends on the degree of responsive caregiving that a child received during the first two years of life. Your positive interactions with infants and toddlers today help them develop the skills to build secure relationships and recognize and communicate their feelings throughout their lifetime.

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