



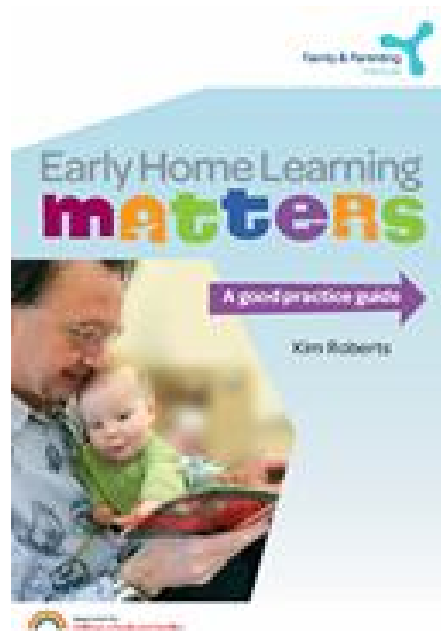
Early Home Learning

Supporting parents in their role as children's first educators

RESEARCH & POLICY FOR THE REAL WORLD



www.earlyhomelearning.org.uk



Creating effective services

How to commission early home learning services that have the greatest impact on children's outcomes.

Practitioners section

How to help parents engage effectively in their children's early home learning.

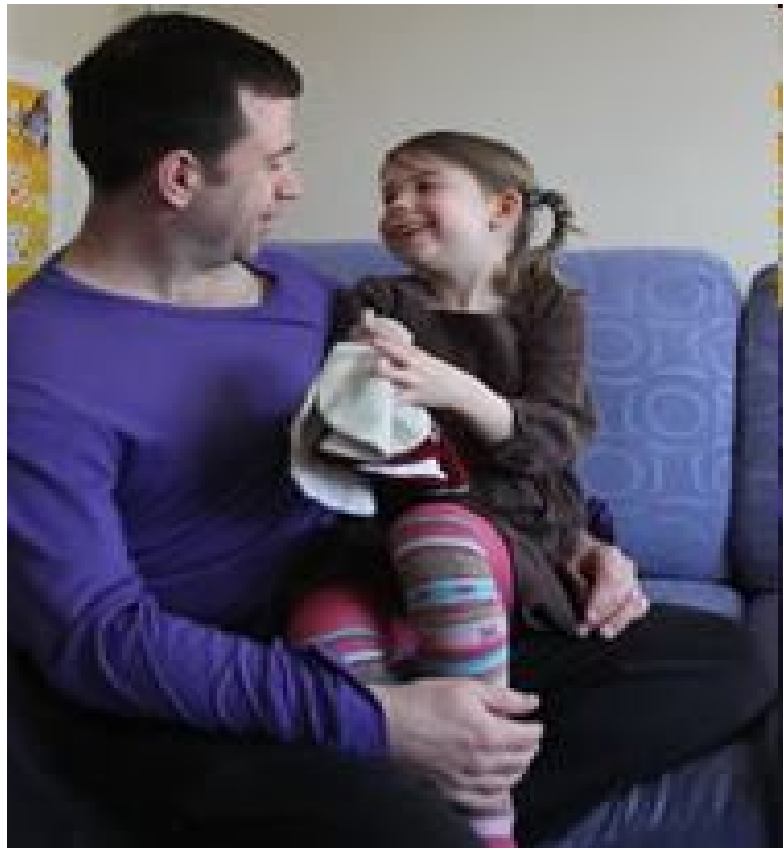
Parents section

Why you are so important for your child's future

What is a good home learning environment?

The quality of relationships and experiences that build a foundation for learning as part of normal daily life at home

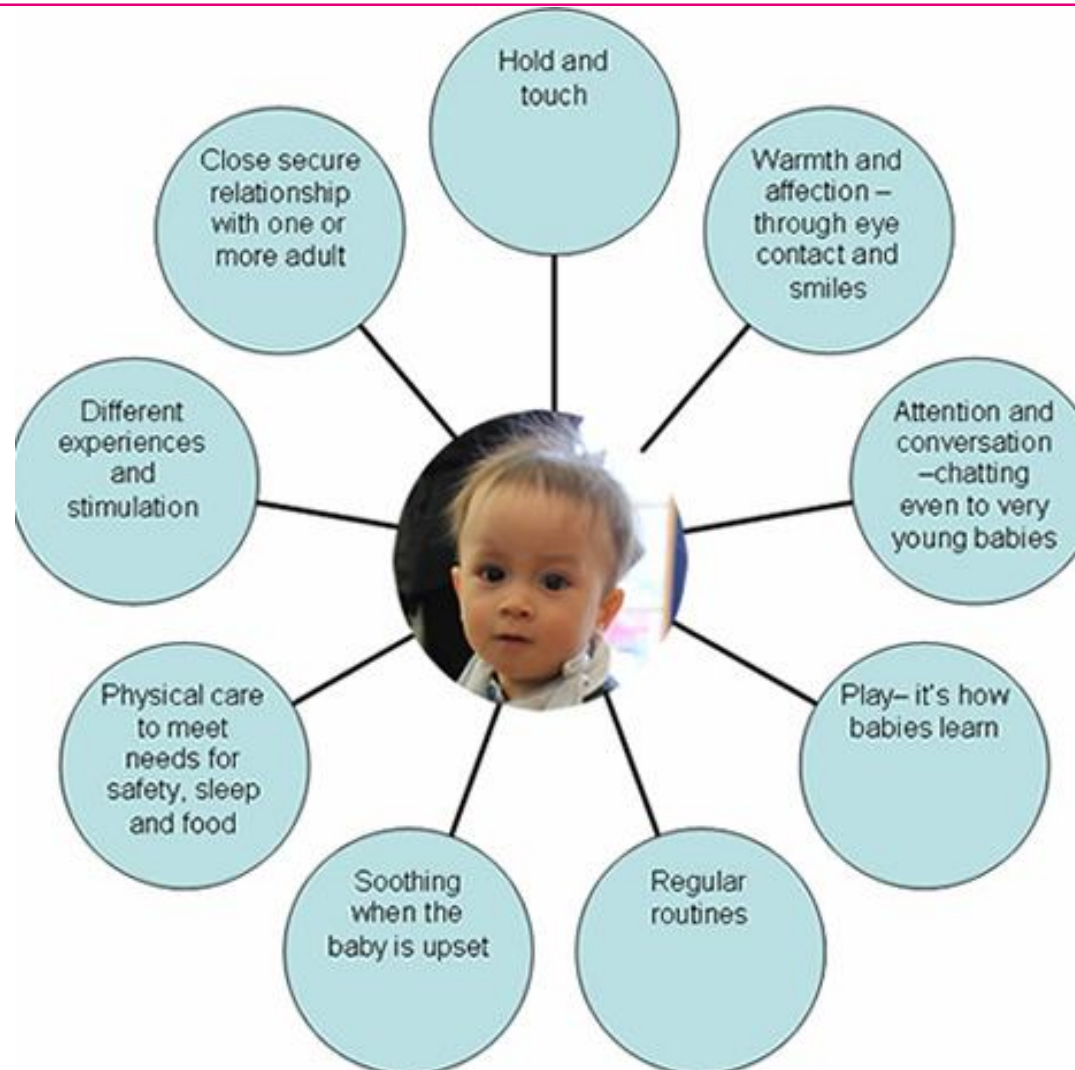
The importance of relationship



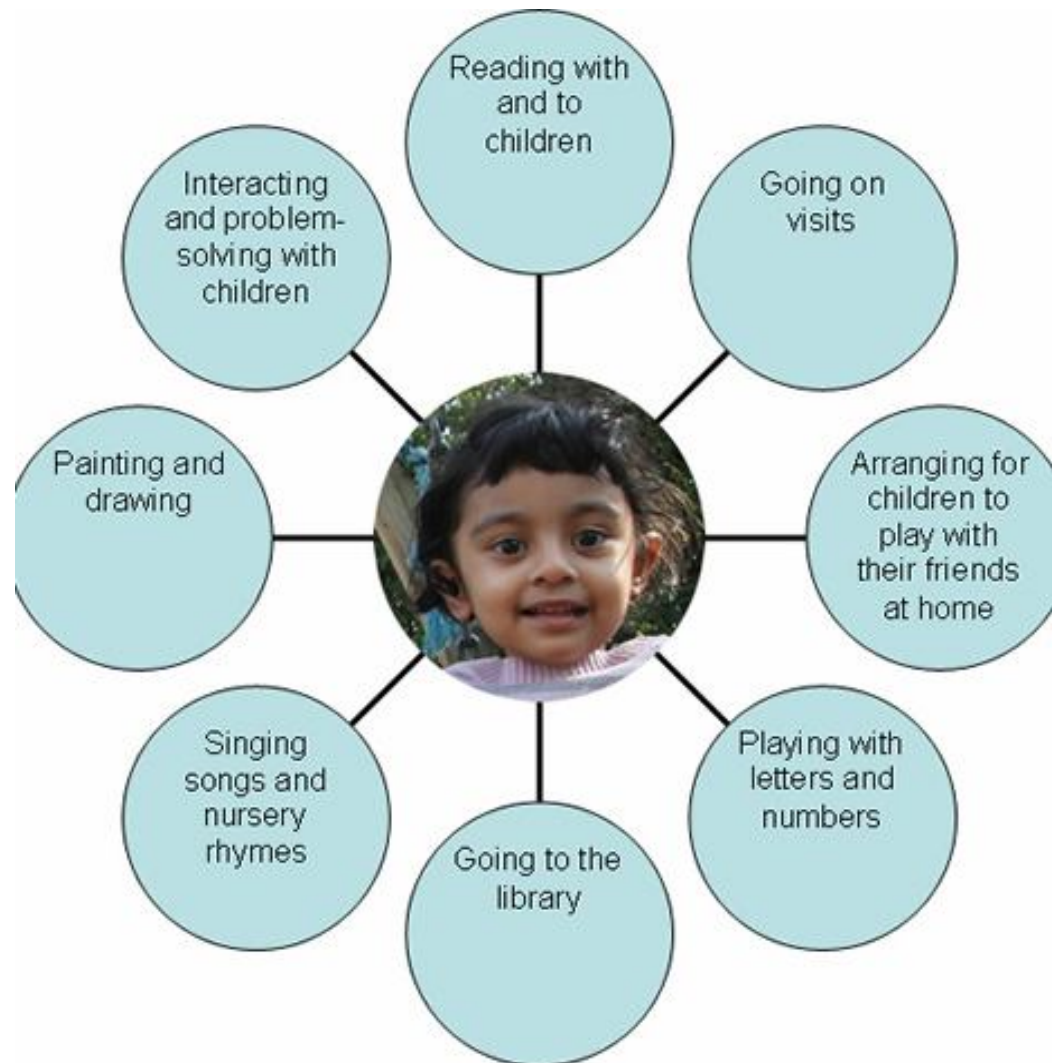
“When parents provide warm, loving attention, this builds future capacity for empathy and self-control, both of which have a major impact on later life.”

Early Home Learning Matters, a good practice guide, 2009

Promoting babies' development



Promoting young children's development



Involving parents

Building links between home and settings

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Reinforcing parents' importance



- Parents lack confidence, knowledge and skills, not interest
- What parents do is more important than who they are
- Parental involvement in children's learning through play in the early years has a greater impact on children's wellbeing and achievement than any other factor.



Desforges 2003, Feinstein 2003

Helping parents see the value of play



I couldn't see the point of doing the same thing over and over again with my toddler.

Then I joined a Dads' group and the worker said "Well actually with repeating this activity which is probably boring you to tears, you're actually reinforcing the connections in your toddler's brain and then it grows... "

That's really good. So now I can see the point and know that what I'm doing is actually making a difference and is important.



Messages from parents

Parents want to be:

- treated as active participants in their children's learning
 - listened to and treated with respect
 - helped by 'professional friends' – practitioners who are well-informed and show an interest in them and their lives
 - given clear information and advice
 - supported to build their confidence and skills in providing positive early learning experiences
 - included in fun activities with their children and other parents
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Supporting parental involvement

Family & Parenting
Institute



“Effective early childhood settings involve parents in decisions about their child’s learning, encourage them to join in activities with their child and share child-related information between parents and staff”

Improving children’s attainment through a better quality of family-based support for early learning, C4EO 2009

What helps



- Home visits
- Transition sessions and parent discussion groups
- Parent resource rooms
- Resources e.g. lending toys and books, providing laundry and IT facilities
- Fun activities and learning with child



Provider Impact on the Home Learning Environment

- Effective strategies used by settings to involve parents of two to four year olds
- Interactions between practitioners and parents
- Reporting as part of review of EYFS in October 2010

