

# **Early Learning Matters**

Workshop for Age 18 – 24 months

**Theme: Exploring social and emotional development**



## **Essential Questions:**

- How can you help your child interact with family and other people?
- How can you help expand your child's vocabulary

## **Objectives:**

- Parents will become actively engaged in their children's learning

## **Outcomes:**

- Caregivers will interact with their children with several social/emotional activities.
- Caregivers will teach their child how to take turns while playing hide and seek.
- Caregivers will help their child learn new tasks and play skills with dolls or stuffed toys.
- Caretakers will understand the importance of talking and singing to and with their child.

## **Materials Needed:**

### **Section 1 – Time with parents**

- DVD – 10 Things Every Child Needs, Chapter 8, Play

### **Section 2 – Guided Practice with Parents and Children**

#### *Activity 1 – Hide and Seek*

- Small doll or stuffed animal

#### *Activity 2 – Imaginary Friend Cup Puppet*

- Paper cups
- Markers

#### *Activity 3 – Let's Sing/Talk*

- Talking Singing Activity Sheet

### **Section 3 – Review with Parents, Evaluation with Parents, Closing**

- Feedback sheet

## Take Home:

- Book
- Cup puppet
- Doll or stuffed animal
- Signing / Talking activity sheet

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## Workshops Steps & Procedure:

### Section 1 – Time with parents

- Brain Research information - DVD – 10 Things Every Child Needs, Chapter 8, Play
- Importance of reading to / with children (talked about at each workshop)
- Activity introduction
  - ✦ Discussion
  - ✦ Model the three activities (see Section 2 for details)

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### Section 2 – Guided Practice with Parents and Children

#### *Activity 1 – Hide and Seek*

##### ***MT Guidelines***

- Social Development- Attachment Relationships
  - Uses gestures, glances or words to stay connected to familiar adult
  - Uses imitation or pretend play to make sense of relationships and his or her world
- Social Development - Adult Interaction
  - Maintain interaction with a familiar adult using conversation and play strategies
  - Responds to requests made by familiar adults.

##### ***Milestones***

- Begins to use verbal cues to communicate
- Asks for help verbally or with gestures
- Responds to requests made by familiar adults
- Cooperative pretend play
- Asks a lot of questions

##### ***Procedure***

Children love to play hide and seek. It can be a fun game and also be used to expand a child's language skills.

With the child watching take the small doll or stuffed animal and hide it in the same room. Ask the child to find the object. When they find it, congratulate them and expand say something like, "Good job! You found the doll behind the chair!" Keep playing, and hiding the object in different locations. The child may want to hide the object from you too.

## **Activity 2 – Imaginary Friend Cup Puppet**

### **MT Guidelines**

- Social Development- Attachment Relationships
  - Uses gestures, glances or words to stay connected to familiar adult
  - Uses imitation or pretend play to make sense of relationships and his or her world
- Social Development - Adult Interaction
  - Maintain interaction with a familiar adult using conversation and play strategies
  - Responds to requests made by familiar adults.
- Social Development – Feelings of others
  - Ask about other's emotional state
  - Uses words or gestures to identify feelings
- Social Development - Social Identity
  - Describes self using specific terms, "I am big".

### **Milestones**

- Begins to use verbal cues to communicate
- Asks for help verbally or with gestures
- Responds to requests made by familiar adults
- Cooperative pretend play
- Asks a lot of questions

### **Procedure**

Use the paper cup to make a puppet. Cut or poke a hole in the cup for the child's finger which will become the nose of the puppet. Draw eyes and a smiling mouth on the cup. Parents talk to their child using the puppet. Parents tell their child positive things through the puppet and to the puppet. Say things such as, "You have a nice smile." Encourage the child to respond with "Thank you". Ask the child to "Please bring me the ....." then have the puppet respond with "Thank you." Ask the child questions, then be sure to praise the answers. Let the child put their finger in the nose of the puppet and talk to the parent.

### **Activity 3 – Let’s Talk / Sing**

#### **MT Guidelines**

- Social Development- Attachment Relationships
  - Uses gestures, glances or words to stay connected to familiar adult
  - Uses imitation or pretend play to make sense of relationships and his or her world
- Social Development - Adult Interaction
  - Maintain interaction with a familiar adult using conversation and play strategies
  - Responds to requests made by familiar adults.
- Social Development – Feelings of others
  - Ask about other’s emotional state
  - Uses words or gestures to identify feelings
  - Provide comfort for a “crying doll in pretend play
  - Offer comfort by giving a favorite toy or blanket
- Social Development - Social Identity
  - Describes self using specific terms, “I am big”.
  - Displays sense of ownership

#### **Milestones**

- Begins to use verbal cues to communicate
- Pretends to read using babbling
- Proud of things they do
- Asks for help verbally or with gestures
- Responds to requests made by familiar adults
- Cooperative pretend play
- Asks a lot of questions

#### **Procedure**

Using the doll or stuffed animal from activity 1, encourage the parents to talk to their child about the object. For example, “This baby is very nice, I like to cuddle with her.” “The baby is hungry, we better feed him.” “The baby looks tired, we should put her to bed.”

Also encourage singing to the doll or stuffed animal. For example, the parents could sing “If you’re happy and you know it” with the doll or stuffed animal making it “clap” it’s hands. Or the parent could sing, “Head, Shoulder’s Knees and Toes” and point to the body parts. Encourage the child to sing to the doll or stuffed animal too. Children sometimes enjoy making up their own songs. Give the child a book and have her pretend to read the book to the doll or puppet.

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### **Section 3 – Review with Parents, Evaluation with Parents, Closing**

#### ***Follow up group discussion***

- ***What did your child enjoy***
- ***What didn't your child enjoy***
- ***What else could you do at home to help ....(address essential question)***
  - ***Write down all ideas that parents share***
  - ***If possible print the ideas and copy for each parent to take home when they leave***
- ***Time for parents to fill out the Parent Questionnaire about the workshop***
  
- ***Make sure parents take home items***
  
- ***Let parents know date of next workshop***