

FCS 3216 Caring for Infants and Toddlers

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How can we help very young children thrive in life as learners?



1. Early experiences affect the development of the brain and lay the foundation for intelligence, emotional health, and moral development (Shonkoff & Phillips, 2000).
2. Birth-to-three is the highest-risk, highest potential development phase in the human lifespan (Moreno, Sciarrino, Klute, 2009).
3. According to Ellen Galinsky (2009), in her book *Mind in the Making*, the research suggests simple, everyday things we can do with young children, birth to three, to build skills for today and the future.

In this course we will focus on how accurately, how independently, and how comfortably a child can do something. Additionally we will spend time exploring how the adult can foster optimal quality of development by encouraging complexity and variety in what the child can do by:

- Exploring the skills that foster essential life skills for infant and toddler learning
- Discussing theories of development as they apply to infants and toddlers.
- Analyzing components of adult/child interactions.
- Providing opportunities for understanding skill building through play.
- Participating in twelve hours of field placement with infants and toddlers (background check required)