



# Constructively Meeting 10 Challenges of Working With Infants, Toddlers, and Twos

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# Guiding Principles

- Development begins in the prenatal period and extends throughout life.
- Nurturing and responsive relationships provide the foundation for healthy growth and development.
- Development occurs through a complex interaction between genetic factors and environmental experiences.
- Optimal growth is achieved when good health and nutrition are combined with nurturing and responsive caregiving.
- Genetic factors and environmental deficiencies can cause developmental delays.
- Development occurs across multiple domains.
- Development in one domain influences development in other domains.
- Development proceeds through a predictable sequence of milestones.
- Cultural context influences every aspect of development.
- Children's individual differences and temperament influence development and learning.
- Children's learning occurs throughout the day through everyday experiences and routines.
- Children's learning can be enhanced by families and early childhood teachers.
- All children can benefit and learn from sharing experiences with other children.
- There is a strong, direct connection between the early years and later success in school and life.

# 10 Challenges of Working with Infants, Toddlers, and Twos

## **Safe environment**

Safety is more than just the physical environment. What constitutes a “safe environment?”

## **Communication**

Communication is more than just talking. How do you communicate with infants and toddlers?

## **Emotional development**

Social and emotional skills provide a basis for all learning. Why are relationships important? What can parents and teachers do to help even the very young begin to learn self-control and how to resolve conflicts?

## **Empathy**

Empathy is about compassion and recognizing an “other.” What happens if empathy is not encouraged and developed?

## **Tantrums**

Tantrums happen. What triggers a tantrum?

## **Biting**

Biting is used for exploring, learning, and communicating. What factors in an environment foster biting?

## **Cognitive Stimulation**

Providing the proper and enough cognitive stimulation is critical for early learning. What constitutes effective and valuable stimulation for an infant?

## **Baby Cues**

Babies send us numerous cues. How should we respond to specific cues?

## **Calming a crying baby**

Babies are going to cry. What are some techniques and ideas to help calm an upset and crying baby?

## **Language development**

Babies begin to learn language before they are born. What can we do to promote optimal language development?

# S E A L

***Stimulus*** (any sensory provocation)



***Emotion*** (positive or negative)



***Attention*** (positive emotions drive executive functions—negative emotions drive survival)



***Learning*** (the response to the attentional variant)

(adapted from Robert Sylwester's *A Biological Brain in a Cultural Classroom*)