

Who we are...

The Best Start Resource Centre:

- Provides information, consultations, resources and training in the areas of maternal health and early child development to <u>service providers</u>
- Is a program of Health Nexus
 (<u>www.healthnexus.ca</u>), a designated bilingual
 organization
- Is funded in part by the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services.







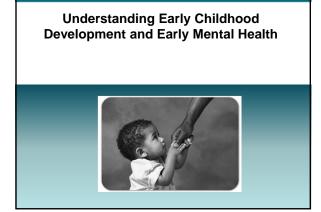
www.imhpromotion.ca

The Rationale for the Child Discipline Campaign

- Responding to a young child's behavior can be challenging for many parents.
- How caregivers respond can influence a child's behavior, development and their mental health.
- Discipline should be guided by many things including a child's development makes it very complex.
- Discipline can easily become punishment what is gained for a young child?

Discipline = Teaching





Popular View of Infant-Early Mental Health

- > Infants don't have mental health.
- Young children don't remember the negative experiences they have.
- > Toddler years the terrible twos!
- > Young children are resilient.
- Young children should be able to manage their emotions and behavior.



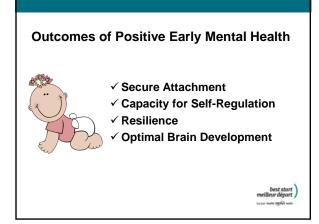
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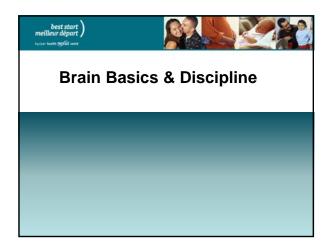
Age	Stage of Development	Behaviors
0-12 months	Attachment	-regulation -recognizable states -attachment -communication
12-30 months	Autonomy & Self Development	-differentiates between self and others; real and make believe -self control; rules
30 months- 7 years	Establishing Peer Relations	-empathy -gender differences -identification of friends -interest in other children

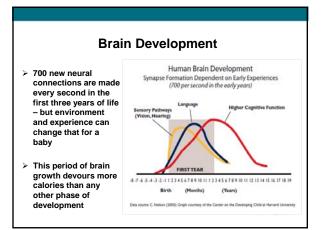


Behavioral Areas	Definition	
Self-Regulation	Ability/willingness to calm, settle, or adjust to physiological or environmental conditions	
Compliance	Ability/willingness to conform to the direction of others and follow rules	
Communication	Verbal/nonverbal signals that indicate feelings, affect, internal states	
Adaptive	Ability/success in coping with physiological needs	
Autonomy	Ability/willingness to establish independence	
Affect	Ability/willingness to demonstrate feelings and empathy for others	
Interaction with People	Ability/willingness to respond or initiate social responses with caregivers, adults, peers.	
Health Dependion Yockelson, and	SQ.SE Training Materials by Jane Squires, Jane Farrell, Jansha Clifford, Sizanne best Blaabath Twomby 10 Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co. All rights reserved. www.agesand stages.com	

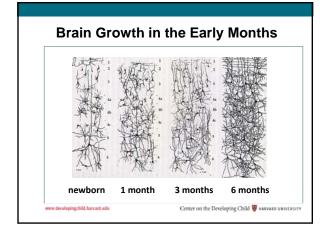




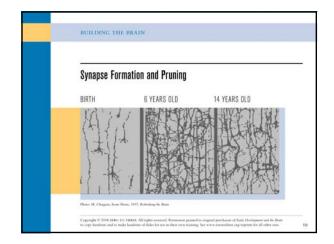




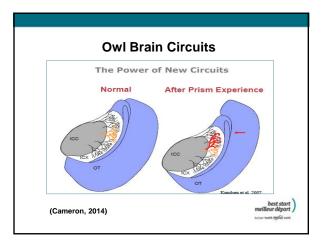




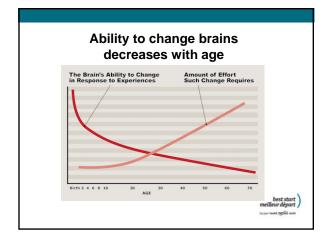




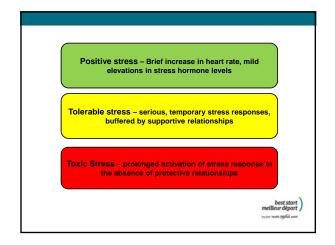




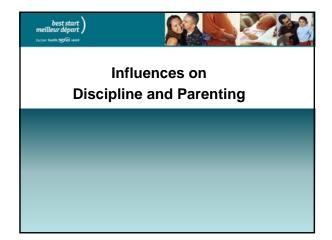












Influences on Discipline

- Parenting Style
- Attachment
- Temperament
- Regulation
- Resilience
- Executive Functioning



A Working Definition of Attachment

- Attachment is that part of an infant-parent relationship concerned with the infant's sense of safety and protection.
- The attachment relationship reflects the baby's efforts to seek comfort, support, nurturance, and protection from a small number of adult caregivers. (Zeanah, 2009)

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What "activates" the attachment system?

The system is activated whenever:

- Safety is threatened
- The baby is emotionally upset (e.g., afraid, sad, lonely)
- The baby is physically hurt
- The baby is ill

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What happens when it is activated?

At that time, infants show attachment behaviours such as:

- Seeking contact with their attachment figure
- Eliciting caregiving responses by crying or clinging

Secure Attachment

- Infants show a balance of attention to the mother and toys
- They explore freely when the mother is present
- When separated, the reactions may vary but upon reunion, their reactions are consistently very positive toward their mother

Mothers are very quick to respond to their baby when distressed with comfort

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Avoidant Attachment

With this pattern of attachment babies will:

- Appear to be quite independent and very busy with the toys their mother presents
- They will show little distress at her departure
- They may snub or ignore her upon her return

Moms are typically unresponsive to distress and seem uncomfortable with close body contact

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Ambivalent/ Resistant Attachment

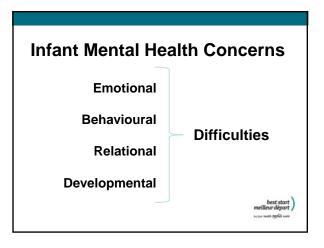
These infants will:

- Appear preoccupied with their mothers
- · Explore very little even when mom is present
- · Become very distressed when mom leaves
- Will seek comfort when reunited with mom, but will not settle and may even resist mom's comfort

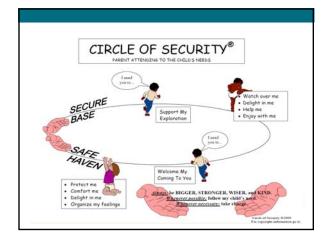
These moms are typically inconsistent in their response to their baby's distress

Disorganized Attachment

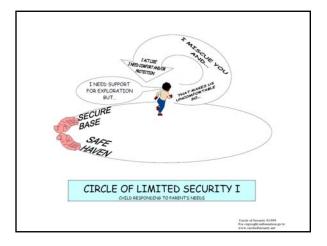
- This fourth classification was later added by Main and colleagues
- Babies have mixed strategies that use any combination of secure, avoidant and resistant attachment behaviours
- This pattern is most predictive of later psychopathology (Zeanah, 2009)



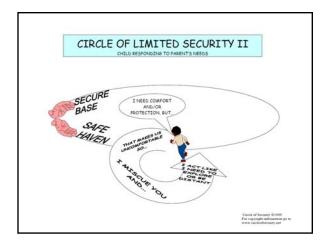




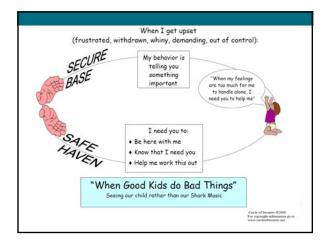






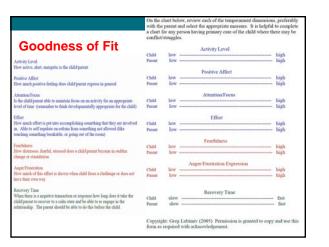














Temperament and Developmental Outcomes

Child temperament is more strongly related to developmental outcomes for children experiencing poor quality parenting than children experiencing better quality parenting (Stright, Gallagher & Kelley, 2008)

Goodness of Fit

The demands and expectations of people and the environment are compatible with the child's temperament

From Thomas and Chess

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Goodness of Fit

- Good fit → higher probability of healthy development for the child
- Poor fit → places children at risk for developing behavioural and/ or emotional problems

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Goodness of Fit

- Sensitive and effective parenting requires parents to adapt their expectations to provide a good fit with their child's temperament.
- Unfortunately, in too many cases the fit is not there. For a variety of reason, including...

What Influences Goodness of Fit

- Temperament of the Child
- Temperament of the parent
- Poor environmental conditions (such as poverty)
- Mental illness of parent
- Mental illness of child
- · Attachment issues
- · Biological issues of child/parent

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Research Findings

When parents use the same child-rearing practices with different children, they evoke different reactions because of each child's temperament, age and other characteristics. These influences contribute to why, as every parent knows, siblings develop unique characteristics and parental practices held to account for these differences.

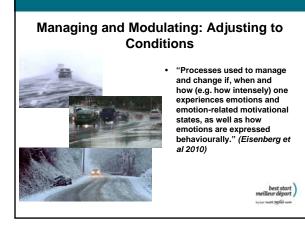
Shonkoff and Phillips eds 2000



Regulation

- In the newborn, regulation is unstable and is not a predictor of regulation capacity later
 (Kopp, 1982; Porges, 1996 as referenced in Halligan et al 2013)
- Physical systems are not well regulated in early infancy and will take time

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Regulation is Complex

- Requires the prefrontal cortex
- Influenced by the brain requires the child to apply cognitive functions to problem solving and emotions
- When the child is dysregulated, the prefrontal cortex shuts down

Communication and Regulation

- These two are intertwined
- · When a baby cries she is dysregulated
- The response to that cry helps her regulate
- Eventually, that baby learns that by communicating distress, caregivers will respond and ultimately help her calm down

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Regulation Requirements

- · Learning to attend
- Focusing effectively being done by 8 10 months
- Effortful control by 36 48 months
- Organizing a number of responses:
 - ➤ In the brain
 - ➤ In the body
 - > In emotions
 - > In cognitive functioning
 - > In behaviour

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It's a process

- Some we are born with it
- Some develop it and will be largely influenced by our experience
- Research has shown that early development of self regulation has a direct relationship to better functioning in many other domains later in life

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Understanding Regulation & Attachment

- · It is about maintaining a balance
- For infants, the attachment system is an external regulation system – it helps them to maintain a balance when they become dysregulated

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Essentials

In order for a child to have the capacity to regulate emotions and behaviours, the following are needed:

- Ability to solve practical and personal problems
- Ability to maintain some emotional stability in the presence of stress without relying on unhealthy behaviours

Signs of Early Regulation

- · Perhaps one of the first signs of regulation in an infant is when s/he stops crying when picked up by the primary caregiver
- Soon after, the infant will start to share eye contact and respond to emotional cues from her caregiver such as cooing and smiling
- This is communication and regulation working together

Regulation in Infancy

- · Over time, the baby begins to show increased stability and variety of mood and arousal in response to external cues
- By the end of infancy, a baby will have developed the ability to calm themselves down for brief periods of time
- · The ability to stick to a schedule is also part of regulation

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Signs of Poor Regulation in Infants

Difficulty with: ٠

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- Sleep routine
 Feeding routines
 Unable to soothe when picked up
- Unable to avert a gaze
- Non reactive to expressive cues from the caregiver or reacts negatively
- Not receptive to stimulating toys
- Frequent changes in moods
- Reactions to stressors are out of proportion
- Inappropriate activation of stress response system Has difficulty calming down
- Out of touch with internal states such as hunger, temperature

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18

Signs of Poor Regulation in Infants and Toddlers

- Aggressive towards others
- · Unable to express and label emotions
- Unable to understand emotions shown by others
- · Easily frustrated
- Difficulty establishing routines
- Difficulty following tasks
- Difficulty with turn taking
- Difficulty sustaining attention, switching attention
- · Highly distractible

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Signs of Poor Regulation 4 – 5 year olds

Difficulty with:

- Sleeping Increased startle
- Balance and movement

- :

- Balance and movement Regulating bodily functions Not meeting milestones No interest in new activities or novel things Frequent tantrums Difficulty with transitions Overreactions Mood shifts Unable to stay on task for 10 minutes (excluding TV) Never seems very happy ٠ Never seems very happy



Resilience

A system within the individual that requires:

- Competence
- · Effective behaviour
- · Adaptive capacity

(Masten and Obradovic 2006)

Resilience – Involves Many Systems

- Learning systems of the human brain problem solving, information processing Attachment system — close relationships with caregivers, friends, romantic partners, spiritual figures
- Mastery motivation system successful behavior - self-efficacy processes, reward systems related to
- Stress response systems alarm and recovery systems
- Self-regulation systems emotion regulation, executive functioning, activation and inhibition of attention or behavior Family system — parenting, interpersonal dynamics, expectations, cohesion,
- rituals, norms
- School system teaching, values, standards, expectations
- Peer system friendships, peer groups, values, norms Cultural and societal systems — religion, traditions, rituals, values, standards, laws

(Masten and Obradovic 2006)

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Adversity Builds Resilience?

- NOPE!
- · There are no invulnerable children
- · There are levels of risk and adversity so overwhelming that resilience does not occur and recovery is extraordinarily rare or impossible

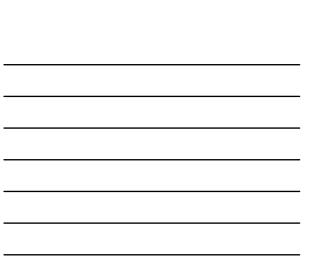
(Masten and Obradovic 2006)

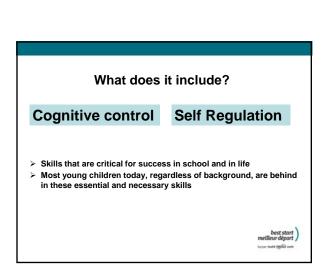
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EXECUTIVE

FUNCTIONING









Can Development be Influenced?

- YES!
- Improving EF needs to begin early if you want to establish a trajectory for success
- When kids begin school behind in these skills, it will be difficult and costly to change the trajectory

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Inhibitory Control

- Process of suppressing attention to distractors
- Ability to resist a strong inclination doing what is
- appropriate
- Helps us to:
 - Resist acting on impulse i.e. resist grabbing a child's toy, being hurtful to others or resist a dessert
 - Stay on a task even when bored
 - Pay attention despite distraction i.e. paying attention to one person at a party despite other conversations

(Duckworth & Seligman, 2005)

Working Memory

Holding information in mind while mentally working with it or updating it

- Making sense of anything that unfolds over time
- Involves holding in mind what happened earlier and relating that to what is happening now
- Requires:
 - Relating one idea to another
 - Relating what you read earlier to what you are reading now
 - Doing mental arithmetic
 - Prioritizing the things you need to do
 - Follow a conversation while keeping in mind what you want to say
 - Translate instructions into actions

Cognitive Flexibility

- Critical to creative problem solving Flexible thinking
- Being able to easily and quickly switch perspectives or the focus of your attention
- What are other ways I can react when something happens?
- What are other ways I can conceptualize problem (i.e. maybe this is an opportunity)?
- What are other ways I can try to overcome a problem?

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Stress & Executive Function

- Stress impairs Executive Function and can cause someone to look as if he or she has ADHD
- Mild stress increases dopamine release in only the prefrontal cortex

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It's not just about labelling...

- Putting feelings into words produces therapeutic effects on the brain
 - Increased activation in the prefrontal cortex and a reduced response in the
 - Amygdala is essential in decoding emotions
 - There is an inverse relationship between activation in the prefrontal cortex and the amygdala

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Language becomes so important

- When we translate our emotional experience into language, talking or writing about it, how we understand the experience and represent it in our mind and brain will change
- As we do this the prefrontal cortex gets more involved

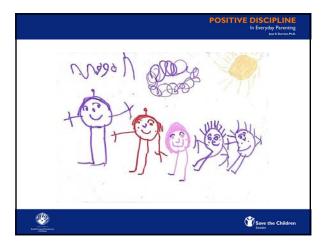
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EF Skills and School Readiness

- EF skills more strongly associated with school readiness than IQ
- Many children arrive at school lacking executive function skills
- Research shows that 5 year olds today are behind in EF skills compared with those of a couple of generations ago (Smirnova, 1989; Smirnova & Gudareva, 2004)







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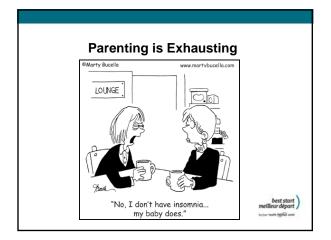
POSITIVE DISCIPLINE In Everyday Paranting Jan Löwen, N.B.
Typical Stress Responses:
shouting threatening hitting name-calling criticizing nagging
Save the Children



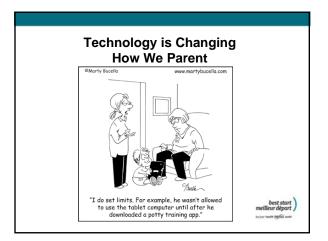




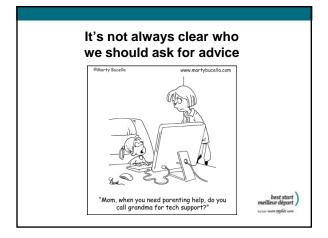




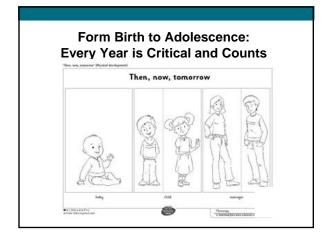


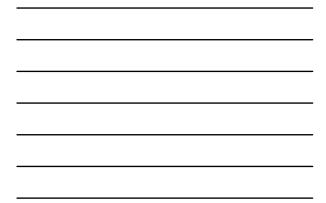














Permissive

- Lack of rules and structure
- · Critical times often chaotic (mealtime/bedtime)
- Few consequences for actions
- Allow child great deal of choice/freedom beyond what child can manage
- · Child gets whatever s/he wants
- When parent frustrated with child, parent may revert to strict discipline parent received as a child

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Authoritarian

- An absolute set of standards enforced to control children
- Rules are rigid no room for discussions
- Obedience, respect for authority, punctuality, order and control all emphasized
- Verbal give & take discouraged
- · Love is conditional
- Humiliation, threats, bribes and harsh punishment used to instill obedience

Authoritative

- Clear rules, routines and expectations
- · Independence and individuality encouraged
- Child & parent rights and needs respected
- Open communication
- Love is unconditional
- Children are taught how to think & problem solve

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Summary

- Children of **authoritarian** parents were more likely to be discontented, submissive, whiny, distrustful, withdrawn and often aggressive
- Children of **permissive** parents were more likely to be immature and lacking in self-reliance and self-control
- Children of authoritative parents were more likely to be self-confident, self-controlled and assertive, and more likely to obtain higher grades

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Building Adult Capabilities to Improve Child Outcomes A THEORY OF CHANGE

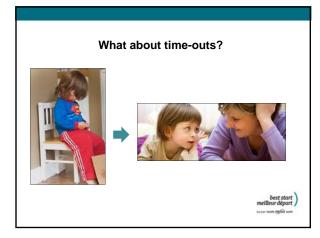
Best practices for child discipline

Recommendations from literature and campaign key informants built on healthy development practices.

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Best practices for child discipline

- Build strong attachment with their children.
- Foster a positive parent-child relationship through love, nurturing, and respect.
- Have realistic expectations and gain an understanding of their child's developmental stage and capabilities and respond to challenges in a manner that suits their child.
- Model desired behaviour and encourage/praise children when they are
- behaving well.Be consistent with the chosen approach to discipline.
- Set reasonable limits.
- Create a safe environment for children.
- Take care of themselves as well so that they are able to respond to challenging behaviour in a calm and effective manner. best start)



Time-Outs... the Last Resort... and the Final Frontier...

- Best to understand why the child is behaving that way. May be age-appropriate... Important to see from the child's point of view.
- Young children don't always have the capacity to understand the implication of their actions on themselves or on others.
- Young children need to learn to self-regulate and parents can help them do that if they stay calm and discuss the situation instead of "losing it".
- · Children who are punished may develop the reaction of not getting caught the next time
- If children are punished by their parents for their mistakes, they may not go to their parents when they are in trouble. This goes against all we know about attachment theory.
- Difficult situations with young children are a great way to help them problem-solve and parents can do that much better with a conversation than by isolating the child.

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Connecting the Science of Infant Mental Health to Time-Outs

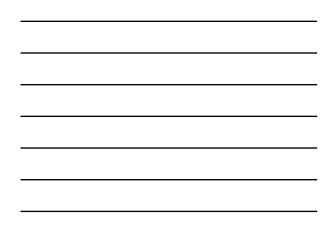
- Brain Development what is being "programmed" into the child's brain
- · Serve and Return (children learn what to expect from parent)
- Toxic Stress (Prolonged periods of crying being ignored = Toxic Stress)
- Many have in fact adapted this to time-in they are . NOT the same

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Time-In

- · Helps a child to calm down
- · Tells a child that when overwhelmed the caregiver is there for support
- · Reflects what we know about early brain development and regulation





What the Science of Infant Mental Health say about Rewards

- Brain Development what is being "programmed" into the child's brain
- Serve and Return (children learn what to expect from parent)

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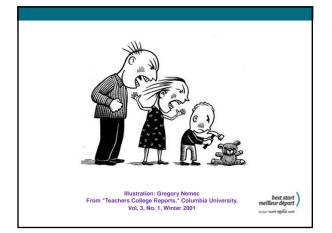
What the Science of Infant Mental Health say about ignoring behaviour

- Brain Development what is being "programmed" into the child's brain
- Serve and Return (children learn what to expect from parent)
- Toxic Stress (Prolonged periods of crying being ignored = Toxic Stress)

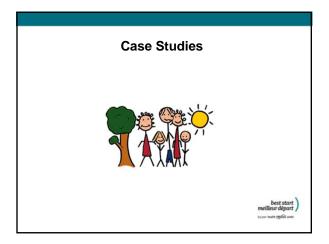
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Other Favorites...

- When parents countdown and expect children to stop behaviour (age appropriate)
- Yelling and getting angry how does this affect the child's ability to express their emotions?













Human Rights Perspective

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child - Article 19 (1989)

- Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, physically or mentally.
- Any form of discipline involving violence is unacceptable.
- Ratified by Canada, but full implementation currently not fully in place through laws.



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Healthy Child Development Perspective

Physical punishment predicts:

- Lower moral internalization
 Higher levels of verbal and physical aggression
- Higher levels of delinquency and
- antisocial behaviourPoorer parent-child relationships
- Poorer mental health
- Poorer mental health

Research from Elizabeth Gershoff









- Help parents think about the long term effects
- Promote parenting practices from Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth

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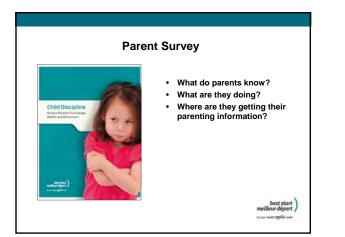
-	Spanking: It Hurt	s More Than	You Think	
Discipline	Shouldn't Hurt		Children	are Unbeatable! Think Twice
F	Raise Your Hand	against Smac	king!	
Positive Di	scipline is In You	ır Hands	Children	See, Children Do

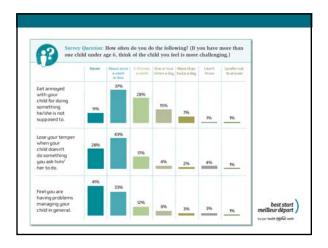




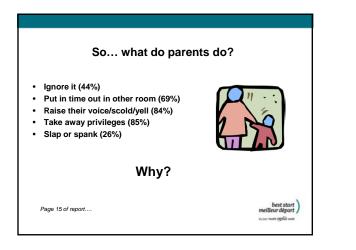


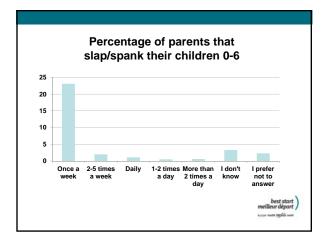




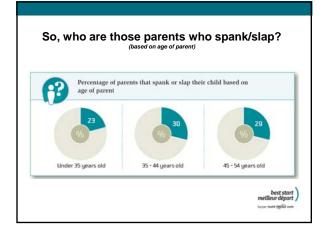




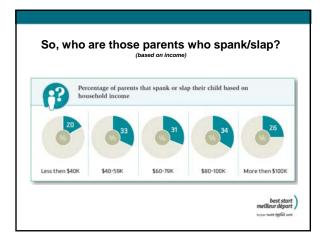




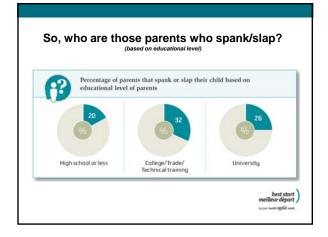




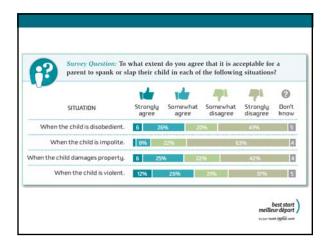




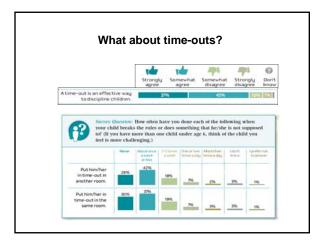














Differences between Moms & Dads

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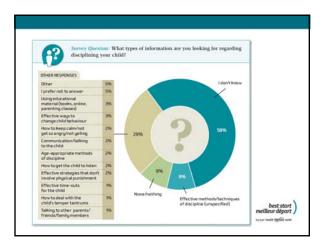




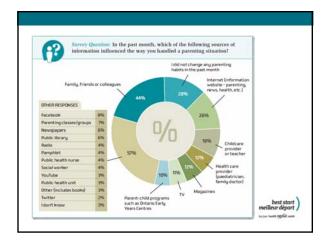
- More supportive of use of physical, verbal punishment and strict discipline.
 More likely to say that slapping
- More likely to say that slapping/ spanking are effective methods.
 Less likely to think that slapping/spanking teaches children that it is OK to hit others.
- More likely to get annoyed and feel they have trouble managing their child. More likely to think that children
- develop lasting psychological problems when adults yell or swear at them often.

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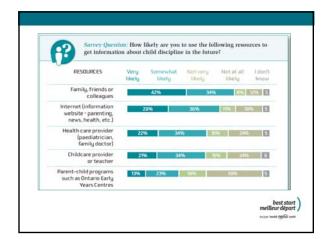














Needs Assessment of Service Providers						
Which of the following tools would be most useful to you to promote a child discipline message to parents?						
Response	Chart	Percentage	Count			
A large poster (16" X 20")		25%	73			
A small poster (8 %" X 11")		18%	53			
A pamphlet	the second se	40%	116			
A growth chart		31%	88			
A placemat		13%	38			
A postcard		12%	34			
A small tear-off sheet		25%	71			
A bookmark		11%	33			
Ready-to-use parent workshop materials	1.000	74%	214			
Other, please specify		11%	32			
	Total Responses		288			



We are now ready....

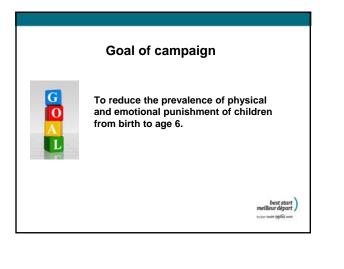
- ✓ Key informant interviews
- ✓ Environmental scan of other campaigns
- ✓ Best practices for child discipline
- ✓ Parent survey
- ✓ Needs assessment of service providers



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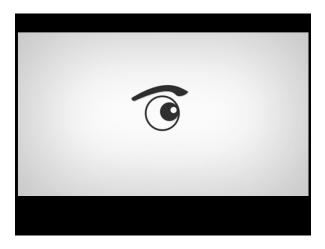








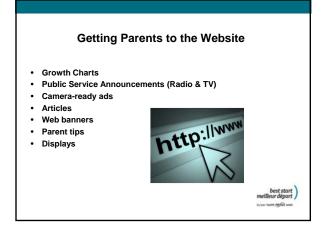
44

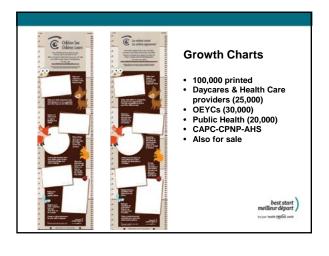














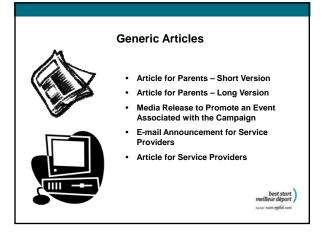


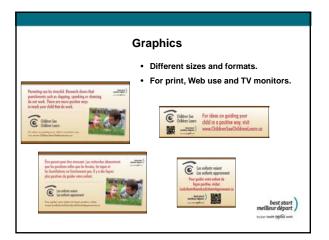
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Thank you & Evaluations



Louise Choquette Best Start Resource Centre I.choquette@healthnexus.ca

best start)