

Attachment Relationships

Vignette 1: When a home visitor arrives, she finds a father and his 5 month old baby deeply engaged in play on the floor. While she knows that she needs to get a lot of paperwork filled out during this visit, she also knows that one of her primary jobs is to support the relationship between these two. She watches as the baby reaches and scoots on her tummy for a toy, while Dad, on his tummy, too, is building the excitement and encouraging her but not letting the excitement get out of hand. She reaches the toy and flashes him a smile that says, “Being with you is wonderful!”

What might the home visitor do to promote the development of this relationship?

Vignette 2: An infant care teacher in a center-based program is trying to calm a 10 week old baby with colic. The baby cries and cries, even when being held. The teacher is concerned about the needs of this child and her other three children.

How can this infant care teacher use this moment to build the child’s attachment relationship with her?

Vignette 3: A one-year old toddles across the play yard from where the teacher is sitting on a blanket with another baby. She wants to watch the children in the next play yard through the fence but keeps looking back fearfully at her teacher.

How can this infant care teacher use her close, secure relationship with this child to support her learning and exploration?