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Early Literacy

How to Make it Happen!

Presented by: **Sandy Inkster**
Early Literacy Specialist for Muskoka
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Learning Objectives

- Understand brain development in young children
- Understand correlation between positive relating and interactions with children and their optimal development
- Use child development information to provide appropriate toys and activities



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Know Your Destination

- Starting the journey: the **relationship** is key
- Trip Insurance: **experiences** with support to guide through the stages
- **"Oh, the Places You'll Go!"**: inspiring children to be **life-long learners**



In the beginning...

- Over 100 billion brain cells
- $\frac{1}{4}$ or 25% already activated
- $\frac{3}{4}$ or 75 % waiting to be 'ignited'
- Use it or lose it - the brain self prunes
- Repetition is vital



Brain Development

- Infants communicate ~ critical that adults respond (Brain picture)
- Parents and caregivers: incredible role of influencing children (Routines)
- Growth and development as affected by sensory stimulation



Five Senses - Thank you, Aristotle!

- **Touch** - One of the first senses to develop: hug, kiss, snuggle, massage, touching rhymes
- **Taste** - Prefers sweet, limited exploration for about 6 months:
 feed healthy
- **Hearing** - In utero, distinguishes parents voices from others and loves to listen to talking, likes higher pitched voices, singing
 linked to enhanced letter sound determination:
 talk out loud, sing, describe, read
- **Smell** - distinguishes parents from others:
 avoid perfumed/scented products
- **Sight** - first shape, eye contact, emotional expression:
 black and white/contrasting images, look them in the eye when talking, use facial expressions

Today, we know we have more than 5 senses...

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Critical Periods of Development ~ Windows of Opportunities

- Visual and auditory development
- Language development
- Physical and motor development
- Emotional and social development



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Evidence from Research

- Read the cues
- Follow the lead of the child
- Child directed play/activities
- Outcome not predictable - process not the product (art etc)



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'Not-necessary' Products

- Electronic 'screens'...DVDs, TV, computer
- 'Increase your baby's intelligence' products
- Reading programs for babies - flashcards etc.
- Watch out for pressure to BUY 'multi-sensory' or 'developmental' toys!



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Six Skills for Literacy

- Vocabulary
- Print Motivation
- Print Awareness
- Narrative Skills
- Letter Knowledge
- Phonological Awareness (Rhyming, alliteration, blending, segmentation and manipulation)



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Bring a Book Alive!

- pre-reading/practice reading/pick up on patterns, math, language play
- author, illustrator, dedication page
- voice
- expression
- delete words/add words
- describe what you see/point out
- props
- dramatize - puppets, felt, figures, act
- active participation
- re-telling of story ...beginning, middle, end/first, after, next, and then, finally"



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Understanding Learning Styles

- **Visual Learners: learn through seeing...**
- These learners need to see the teacher's body language and facial expressions to fully understand the content of a lesson. They like to sit at the front of the class to avoid visual obstructions. They may think in pictures and learn best from visual displays.
- Remember visual details
- Prefer to see what they are doing
- Like to have paper and pencil handy
- Doodle while listening
- Have trouble following lectures
- Like to write down instructions or telephone numbers



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Understanding Learning Styles

- **Auditory learners: learn through listening...**
- They learn best through verbal discussions, talking things through and listening to what others have to say. Auditory learners interpret the underlying meanings of speech through listening to tone of voice, pitch, speed and other nuances. Written information may have little meaning until it is heard.
- Enjoy discussion
- Remember by talking out loud
- Need to have things explained orally
- Have trouble with written instructions
- Talk to themselves while learning something new
- Repeat a telephone number to remember it



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Understanding Learning Styles

- **Tactile/Kinesthetic learners: learn through moving, doing and touching...**
- Tactile/Kinesthetic persons learn best through a hands-on approach, actively exploring the physical world around them. They may find it hard to sit still for long periods of time and may become distracted by their need for activity and exploration.
- Prefer activities
- Want to actually do whatever is being talked about or learned
- Like to move around while listening or talking
- Often 'talk' with their hands
- Like to touch things to learn about them
- Remember things by recalling who did what, rather than who said what



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Stuck for Ideas? Choose the tool...

- ELECT (Early Learning for Every Child Today Framework)
<http://web.idcsb.on.ca/ProgramsServices/curriculumexpectations/Early%20Years/ELECT.pdf>
- Nipissing Developmental Screening Tool
<http://www.ndds.ca>
- Early Literacy Checklist



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Websites

- <http://www.zerotothree.org/baby-brain-map.html>
- http://www.frp.ca/_data/n_0001/resources/live/play-for-the-brain_ENG.pdf
- <http://twoparents.tv.org/article/babies-brains-and-importance-caregivers>
- <http://www.offordcentre.com/parenting/docs/Jean%20Clinton%20ppt.ppt>
- <http://www3.tv.org/video>
- <http://www.childtrauma.org/>
- <http://www.withthebrainmind.org/>
- <http://www6.miami.edu/touch-research/>
- <http://www.sosparents.org/>
- <http://www.founders.net/>
- http://www.parentsmatter.ca/document/document.cfm?fuseaction=document_viewDocument&documentid=469&documentFormatId=931



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Websites

- <http://firstthreeyears.org/index.html>
- <http://www.hwtears.com/hwt>
- aboutkidshealth.ca
- www.cribside.ca
- www.helpthemgrow.com
- www.biengrandir.com
- www.naitreetgrandir.net/fr/
- parents2parents.ca/node/912
- eleverbebe.com
- kidshealth.org/parent
- www.afeseo.ca/html/EnfantAction/A01Introduction.shtml#
- www.cdc.gov/parents/cdc_tv_videos.html
- www.learner.org/resources/series59.html
- www.frasermustardchair.ca/buildingbrains
- www.caringforkids.cps.cawww.soinsdenosenfants.cps.ca/developingchild.harvard.edu



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Books

- *A Pair of Socks* - Stuart J. Murphy
- *Art for Baby* - Various Artists
- *Baby Cakes* - Karma Wilson
- *Baby Faces Series (Smile, Splash, Eat, Sleep)* - Roberta Grobel Intrater
- *Barnyard Dance* - Sandra Boynton
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?* - Bill Martin Jr.
- *Did You Hear Wind Sing My Name?* - Sandra De Coteau Orte
- *Dr. Seuss's ABC* - Dr. Seuss
- *Freight Train* - Donald Crews
- *Giving Thanks* - Chief Jake Swamp
- *Going On A Bear Hunt* - Michael Rosen
- *Hey! What's That Sound?* - Veronika Martenova Charles
- *Lessons from Mather Earth* - Elaine McLeod and Colleen Wood
- *Mouse's First Christmas* - Lauren Thompson
- *Nivechihaw I Help* - Caitlin Dale Nicholson
- *Real Mather Goose* - Blanche Fisher Wright
- *The Enormous Potato* - Aubrey Davis
- *Wild Child* - Lynn Plourde
- *When the Leaf Blew In* - Steve Metzger
- *Zoe and the Fawn* - Catherine Jameson

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Acknowledgements and References

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- Dr. Fraser Mustard, was a founding member of McMaster University's medical school and launched the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, an organization that brought together renowned researchers from across the country to tackle major scientific and social issues.
- His work earned him the Order of Ontario and the Order of Canada.
- Dr. Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph.D. is the Senior Fellow of The ChildTrauma Academy (www.ChildTrauma.org) in Houston and an Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Feinberg School of Medicine of Northwestern University in Chicago. He is a clinician and researcher in children's mental health and the neurosciences, and an internationally-recognized authority on children in crisis. From 1993-2001, he was the Thomas S. Trammell Research Professor of Psychiatry at Baylor College of Medicine and Chief of Psychiatry at Texas Children's Hospital. He is currently Senior Fellow at the ChildTrauma Academy which is a leading center of research and education on child maltreatment. He also serves as Senior Consultant to the Alberta Ministry of Children's Services in Canada.

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- Dr. Stuart Shanker, Distinguished Research Professor of Philosophy and Psychology at York University and currently serving as Director of the Milton and Ethel Harris Research Initiative (MEHRI).
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- I Am Your Child Campaign *The First Years Last Forever* video. Sponsored by Reiner Foundation

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Thank you for attending!

- More info, resources or to further discuss:
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