

Can early childhood education make a difference?

As a past caregiver, nanny and babysitter; of infants, toddlers and preschoolers, I believe that proper child care at a young age makes a great deal of difference in a child's life. There are many reasons why it does which we will discuss in this paper. Many of the following ideas and examples were derived from "The Whole Child" movies and book, specifically; "Babies are Children, Too" and "Little Things".

First of all children need an environment that is relaxed enough that they can explore it without getting in trouble or hurting themselves; objects that might hurt them should be kept out of reach or locked away. Second, Children need consistent schedules; everything should have its time; naps, diaper changes or toileting, hand washing and playing. Children need structure to form trust and attachment. It's important that this schedule can be changed accordingly to meet the needs of each individual child's needs. Particularly children that have allergies to certain foods or bugs, and those children with special needs should be given the extra assistance they need. Young infants especially need a great deal of time to learn to trust another caregiver outside their family. Each child has a different temperament and personality which needs to be taken into account when caring for groups of infants and toddlers. Each baby has verbal and visual, non-verbal communication skills to assist you in your caring for them.

I have found that the fundamental value each Caregiver should have for every child they care for is, trust. Children need to feel safe around their Caregivers. They need to know their safety is put first, by their Caregivers. This gives them more freedom to learn, develop, and explore their environment; while building attachment to the Caregivers. Attachment is a bond that is based on trust; it's very physical for babies and more emotional for toddlers.

Dealing with older children can be very challenging. The best tip is to keep your cool around toddlers; especially when they are throwing tantrums. It is also extremely important to set clear rules with them, and be consistent with the consequences when they are broken. It's critical to tell the child what the outcome of a certain choice would be if he were to choose it. Giving toddlers choices to make during the day; such as if they want red or blue paint for art time, or what they would like to eat; gives them a sense of independence and assertion. Which, toddlers are famous for being selfish and putting themselves first. Toddlers also need to learn social behaviors, such as; how to share with a classmate and use their words when angry instead of hitting. I have found that early childhood education help enhance children's circle of friends and their view of how the world works.

Many people believe that early childcare education is a hindrance to a child's independent development. There are certain aspects which need to be taken into account. The ratio of children to Caregivers should never exceed 4 to 1. But, it is also important to explain to the parents while the child will get proper care and attention, other children need to have those needs met too. It becomes an act of balancing which infant or toddler needs you most and what you can do for

them at that particular moment to foster their development.

In conclusion, Caregivers are given an immense responsibility to watch over and aid children. Children's physical, emotional, social, cognitive and behavioral development is enhanced not downplayed in the proper type of childcare education. It's vital to have the appropriate techniques and consistency in disciplining when caring for children to ensure the future generation to be a brighter place. Children who struggle with acting out or have abusive families, or caregivers- tend to go to a negative trajectory path later in life; the critical point is that children are resilient. Their outcomes are never set in stone, and can always change by the help of good role models.