



Presenter's Guide

Brain Development in Infancy and Early Childhood

This guide presents the instructional information and materials required for presenting Lesson Module 2 in the Bright Beginnings curriculum, Brain Development in Infancy and Early Childhood.

Lesson Outline

This lesson module addresses the topic of a child's brain development in infancy and early childhood. Subject matter includes:

- Myths and facts about a baby's brain
- How a child's brain develops
- Brain-building practices for parents and other caregivers
- Importance of brain development for a child's well-being

Learner Outcomes

The learning outcomes desired for this lesson are that participants will:

- Gain a basic understanding of recent research findings about brain development in children
- Identify and discuss implications for parenting young children

- Learn ways to promote positive brain development
- Utilize knowledge to engage in practices that help strengthen a child's brain development

The presenter should keep these outcomes in mind in planning and delivering the lesson.

Length of Time

The recommended presentation time for this lesson is 45 to 90 minutes. Presenters may vary as needed.

Lesson Presentation

Instructions for lesson presentation appear on the lefthand side of the Lesson Outline script. Materials needed for the lesson may include:

- Markers
- Flip chart or Post-It Notes
- Overhead projector and screen
- TV and VCR
- A bag containing infant and child toys (crayons, children's books, stuffed animals, blocks, etc.)
- A set of Lincoln Logs or Tinker Toys (for demonstration)
- 1-2 balls of yarn

If you do not have needed materials available, modify or substitute with other items as possible.

Lesson Handouts

Master copies of lesson handouts to be used in the lesson and provided to participants are included. This lesson has five handouts, including the evaluation. The handouts are:

- #1 - *What Can Communities, Parents and Other Caregivers Do to Promote Infant Brain Development?*
- #2 - *Ten Things Every Child Needs*
- #3 - *Ten Things Every Child Needs - Reminder Cards (for purse, refrigerator, etc.)*
- #4 - *Your Amazing Baby - Cognitive Development*
- #5 - *Lesson Evaluation*

These handouts should be copied and made available to participants for use during the lesson or to take home.

Lesson Overheads

Master copies of lesson overheads to be used are included. There are seven overheads for use, including:

- #1 - *Brain Quiz: True or False?*
- #2 - *Key Factors that Influence Early Brain Development*
- #3 - *Neurons and Connections*
- #4 - *Synaptic Density in the Human Brain*
- #5 - *Brain: Side View*
- #6 - *Learning Foundations - A Safe, Secure Environment*
- #7 - *Windows of Learning - An Enriched Learning Environment*

Additional Teaching Materials

A Resources page is included at the end of the lesson. Additional materials that may be useful for learning more about the topic or as teaching aids are listed.

Lesson Evaluation

A copy of the lesson evaluation that can be used with this lesson is included with the lesson handouts. Please make copies and encourage participants to consider each question carefully and provide a response. The evaluations may be filled out individually or the questions may be read aloud to the group. Evaluations should be collected and returned to:

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