

Social and Emotional Development

Young children need stimulation and interaction throughout their lives, but lack of enrichment can be most damaging in the very early years. Connections in the brain become stronger when they are used often, and connections that are not used die away in childhood and early adolescence.

Newly Single Father Struggles

A physician in Lee County referred a three-year-old whose father was struggling with multiple issues associated with raising a young child as a newly single parent. The child was assessed as speech and toilet training delayed, showing fearfulness and acting out behaviors during the office visit and inappropriate responses to touch. The child's immunizations were also out of date. The 1st Five coordinator referred the family to services at the AEA, an immunization clinic, lead screening, and the University of Iowa developmental disabilities clinic. The child is now in a high quality childcare setting, which has helped with toilet training progress and support. The father is described as increasingly involved in the welfare of this child and showing follow through with the support and referrals made available through the 1st Five Initiative.

For more information, visit the following links:

[What is child development?](#)

[What is developmental screening?](#)

[Monitoring Development](#)

[Brain Development](#)

[Your Baby's Development](#)

[Supporting Social Emotional Development: What Works Briefs](#)

[Tips on Social and Emotional Development](#)

[Developmental Milestones](#)

[What to Expect and When to Seek Help](#)

[Importance of Play](#)

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[Bonding with Your Baby](#)

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