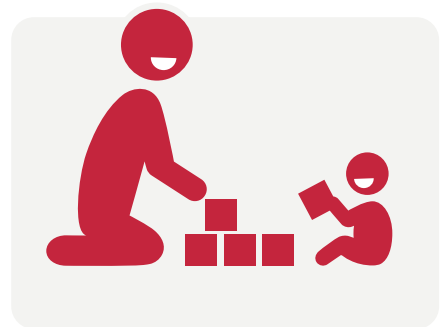


IMPROVING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: WHO Guideline



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Improving early childhood development: WHO guideline

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ACRONYMS

BFHI	Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative
BMI	body-mass index
CI	confidence interval
ECD	early childhood development
GDG	Guideline Development Group
GRADE	Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation methodology
HAZ	height-for-age Z-score
HIC	high-income country
LMIC	low- or middle-income country
MCA	Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing
MCH	Maternal and child health
MhGAP	Mental Health Gap Action Programme
MSD	Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
PICO	population, intervention, comparison, outcome
RCT	randomized controlled trial
SD	standard deviation
SMD	standardized mean difference
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WAZ	weight-for-age Z-score
WHO	World Health Organization
WHZ	weight-for-height (or length) Z-score

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Attachment	An emotional bond between an infant and one or more adults. The infant will approach these individuals in times of distress, particularly during the phase of infant development when the presence of strangers induces anxiety. In addition, the infant is distressed if separated from attachment figures.
Depression	An affective disorder characterized by a sense of inadequacy, feelings of despondency or hopelessness, a decrease in activity and/or reactivity, pessimism, sadness, irritability, changes in appetite and sleep patterns, and poor concentration.
Developmental potential	Ability to think, learn, remember, relate and articulate ideas appropriate to age and level of maturity.
Early childhood development	Refers to the cognitive, physical, language, motor, social and emotional development between 0 - 8 years of age.
Early learning	Any opportunity for the baby, toddler or child to interact with a person, place or object in their environment, recognizing that every interaction (positive or negative, or absence of an interaction) is contributing to the child's brain development and laying the foundation for later learning.
(Child) Maltreatment	The abuse and neglect of children under 18 years of age. It includes all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.
Maternal-infant bonding	A process that includes the emotional tie of a mother to her infant, occurring in the first week or year of an infant's life and that is influenced by signals and cues from the child as well as the maternal-driven processes.
Nurturing care	Characterized by a caregiving environment that is sensitive to children's health and nutritional needs, responsive, emotionally supportive, and developmentally stimulating and appropriate, with opportunities for play and exploration and protection from adversities.
Play	Defined as being for its own sake (without a specific goal), voluntary, a special activity (out of the ordinary), enjoyed by participants, governed by rules (implicit or explicit) and imaginative. It can be solitary or social, and with or without objects. Young children acquire and consolidate developmental skills through playful interactions with people and objects.
Positive parenting	Incorporates anticipatory guidance for safety, education, development and the establishment of a caring and understanding relationship with one's child. Parenting is not limited to biological parents, but extends to guardians or caregivers providing consistent care for the child.
Responsive caregiving	Incorporates anticipatory guidance for safety, education, development and the establishment of a caring and understanding relationship with one's child. Parenting is not limited to biological parents, but extends to guardians or caregivers providing consistent care for the child.
Responsiveness	The capacity of the caregiver to respond contingently and appropriately to the infant's signals.
Stimulation	Sensory information received from interactions with people and environmental variability that engages a young child's attention and provides information; examples include talking, smiling, pointing, enabling and demonstrating, with or without objects.

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