The Inclusiveness of Relationship Based Work
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NMAIMH competencies addressed:

Working with Others
- Building & maintaining relationships
- Supporting others/mentoring
- Empathy & compassion

Reflection
- Contemplation
- Self-awareness
- Professional/personal development

If we were to distill the focus of home visiting into one single objective, it would be to support, enrich, and enhance the relationship between parent and their infant/young child. Within the range of services of Infant Mental Health services, home visiting is a preventive service. Through our focus on the parent/child relationship, we seek to support optimal brain growth for the child by attending to this critical relationship. Here’s a quote by Jack P. Shonkoff, MD that speaks to this:

“Stable, safe relationships and rich learning experiences are key to brain development.”

From John Bowlby:

Attachment is “a lasting psychological connectedness between human beings”

And another by Fred Rogers:

“I don’t think anyone can grow unless he’s loved exactly as he is now, appreciated for what he is rather than what he will be.”

And finally, from Donald Winnicott:

“There is no such things as a baby...if you set out to describe a baby, you will find you are describing a baby and someone”

For a baby to survive, there needs to be an adult to care for them. And if we want a baby to thrive,
Questions to encourage discussion and reflection...

- When

References/Additional Resources


New Mexico Home Visiting Program Standards [PDF]. (n.d.).