

SECURE ATTACHMENT RELATIONSHIPS IN CHILD CARE

<i>Age Range</i>	<i>What children need and experience...</i>	<i>What practitioners provide...</i>	<i>Signs of a secure attachment relationship...</i>	<i>Building the foundation for later...</i>
Infants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External care • Support and protection • Curiosity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention and rapid responses • Sensitivity • Consistency and availability • Safe environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children prefer certain practitioners for activities surrounding sleeping, eating and soothing • Children show fear and avoidance of strangers or unfamiliar others • Children use the preferred practitioner as a base from which to explore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation of emotions and behaviour • Feelings of confidence and effectiveness • Positive social relationships with peers
Toddlers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility and exploration • Individual goals and ideas • Language development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouragement • Active interest • Reciprocal verbal exchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children develop conscious expectations and can predict and anticipate what is to happen • Children are appropriately challenged and not frustrated by learning experiences • Children begin to express feelings and to be comforted by words 	
Preschoolers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independence • Increased language /sense of self • Negotiation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptance and respect • Accommodations • Reasonable limits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are better able to control their emotions and behaviour • Children feel comfortable asserting their preferences and experimenting within the environment • Children and practitioners can work together to resolve conflicts and compromise 	

