

Supporting Negative Affect in Young Male Children toward Positive Outcomes: A Facilitated Conversation

Facilitated by Shashi DeHaan, MAS-IFP, IMH – E ®, CFTP

And Patricia Studley, MAS-IFP, IMH-E ®, COS ®

Objective

- Identify and discuss developmental perspectives of the unique emotional needs and expressions of infant and toddler males
- Discuss and explore evidence-based strategies through guided and reflective conversation
- Recognize and develop awareness and intentional use of self in the tolerance of the negative affect of others.
- Discuss the Practitioner's need to adapt to sensitive responses to the expressed cues of young children experiencing unmet needs.

“Preschool children are being expelled from child care programs at an astonishing rate, often because of challenging behaviors such as aggression, tantrums, and noncompliance.”

(Perry, Holland, Darling-Kuria, & Nativ, 2011)

What are the

- Normative range of emotions for young children?
- Normative range of emotions for adults?
- Normative range of emotions for Adult Caregivers' Response to their young children's affect?

REFLECTION

- What are you feeling?
- What is Gabriel feeling?
- This mother?
- The Nanny?
- How about the siblings?

Sequelaes of Subjective Experiences

What is the sequence of the subjective experiences of this triad? (Stern, 1998)

**What are the common
misinterpretations of
young children's
feelings?**

Crying?

Screaming

Kicking?

Biting?

“Partnership is a reliable ally for the child in times of grief, anger, and frustration because it serves as a protection from despair and emotional collapse.”

Alicia F. Lieberman, PhD
The Emotional Life of the Toddler

**What else might be contributing to
a caregiver's experience?**

How do we support the caregiver/child through this experience or in the narrative of this experience?

- Self-Regulate
- Validate
- Empathize and
- Stay with and slow down (Zeanah, 2009).

**Adults feel that, when
a child desires power,
he want to take some
of our power. →**

Rick Lavoie, MA, MEd

Because we do not want to lose control of the classroom or home, we embroil ourselves in power struggles born of our refusal to surrender our power. Adults need to understand that the child does not want our power. He merely wants some of his own.

Flip the Switch

Adapted from
Richard Lavoie,
MA, MEd, *Flip
the Switch on
Power Struggles*

- Choose Your Battles
- Offer Minor Choices
- Give Responsibility
- Use Proximity ~~Control~~
Connection
- Wipe the Slate Clean

References/Resources

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