PITC ACTIVITIES

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THE PROGRAM FOR INFANT/TODDLER CAREGIVERS

Responsive Communication

Module: **III**
Topic: **Culture, Language and Cognition**
Type: **Role Play**
Group Size: **Small Group/Large Group**
Time: **15 minutes**

Purpose:
To learn how to be responsive when children initiate communication.

What you will need:

Participant Materials	Trainer Materials	Equipment
The following materials: :: Role Play Cards for Baby and Caregiver (see Directions)	:: Colored Markers :: PITC Video *Early Messages* Page 5 of video guide Be Responsive When Children Initiate Communication	:: Dry erase board or flip chart

Directions:

1. Have participants view the video clip from the PITC video *Early Messages* that addresses the first strategy: Be Responsive When Children Initiate Communication.
2. After viewing clip, divide participants into groups of three.
3. Explain that we are going to further explore being responsive caregivers.
4. The trainer assigns roles for the role play. In each group there will be one baby, one caregiver and one observer.
5. Role-play Cards are passed out. There will be 4 cards with different role plays:

   Scenario 1:
   Card 1 Baby (6 months): Participant is to try to get caregiver to play, but cannot use words.
   Card 2 Caregiver: Participant is to act very preoccupied with some personal issue. S/he should be passive, and oblivious to what is going on around her and with the baby.

   Scenario 2:
   Card 3 Baby (6 months): Participant is to try to get caregiver to play, but cannot use words.
   Card 4 Caregiver: Participant is to be responsive, in tune, and ask questions. S/he watches, asks, and adapts to try to understand what the baby wants. Role play for about 1-2 minutes.

6. Large group process - share responses.
7. Observer: What did the observer observe?
   - Babies: What was it like to have a need and not to be able to make them understand?
   - Babies: How did you feel about your caregiver? About yourself?
   - Caregivers: What is it like not to respond to your baby?
   - All: How can you use this in your work with infants? With parents?
8. Share responses and chart answers on dry erase board or flip chart.

Variations:

Links to Head Start Program Performance Standards:
:: 1304.21(b)(2)(ii) Education and Early Childhood Development

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Source Material:
Lally, J.R. (Executive Producer/Content Developer/Writer), Mangione P.L. (Content Developer/Writer), Signer, S. (Content Developer/Writer), & Butterfield, G.O. (Producer/Editor). (1998). *Early messages: Facilitating language development and communication* [Videotape]. United States: The Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers (Developed collaboratively by the California Department of Education and WestEd).

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