Brain Builders: Supporting Cognitive Development and Learning

Infants Begin Learning Through Simple Sensorimotor Experiences

These are 5 Basic Areas of Infant Learning

Cause-and-Effect
When I do this, something else happens.

Understanding Space
I am learning about how things move and fit together.

Patterns, Opposites and The Order of Things (Sequencing)
I am learning about things such as: Colors, Shapes, Sizes, Numbers and the Differences Between UP and DOWN, IN and OUT, OVER and UNDER.

Object Permanence
I am developing my “memory”...
Even when I can’t see something, I can remember it.

Use of Tools
I am learning to use an object or body part to get something I want or to make something happen.

What will your child be able to do by learning these concepts?

Continued
Effects of Stimulation on the Brain: 
Your Interactions Make a Difference

Healthy Brain... This Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scan of the brain of a child who has received nurturing and lots of stimulation shows areas of high activity (the lighter areas).

Abused/Neglected Brain... Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scans of children who are severely deprived, neglected or lack stimulation show that areas of the brain responsible for regulating emotions and learning are affected (the darker areas indicate there is less activity).

What are the Payoffs for Parents and Children When Parents Help Their Children Feel Safe and Secure, Curious and Capable, and Valued?

Children Will...
- Be ready to learn and succeed in school
- Have good problem solving skills
- Believe they can learn
- Have basic mechanical skills
- Feel more capable
- Be better at sports
- Be creative thinkers
- Have good memories
- Build a foundation for learning math, science and reading
- Be more organized and know how to fit things together

Parents Will...
- Find caring for children more interesting and fun
- Recognize how play is connected to learning
- Feel pride in their children’s accomplishments
- Be more patient because they will know the difference between learning and misbehaving
- Feel like they are doing a good job with providing learning opportunities
- Feel more competent doing homework with children when they go to school