Several years into the CYFD Home Visiting Program now, we have touched on topics related to reflective practice and supervision, the use of the various screening tools, curricula and documentation. We’ve focused on attachment, brain development, the parallel process, data-base entry and how to balance case-management with supporting parent-child interaction, all the while keeping a multicultural perspective and noticing our micro-aggressions. Whew! That’s a lot of information! The reality is: all of these separate pieces of information are connected and every piece of this informs our day to day work with families. What does this really mean? How can you work with a family with a toddler without knowing their prenatal history? How can you document a home visit without understanding infant cues and parent-child interaction that promotes social/emotional development? How can you support healthy development if you don’t know typical child development? What’s the benefit of a treatment plan without understanding the caregiver’s experience as well as the baby’s experience? Why use the screening tools if you’re not going to use the information in future home visits? How does the requirement of writing DAP notes guide your ongoing work with families? See – it’s all connected!

Child development guides our understanding of what's expected; attachment/parent-child interaction guides what to look for; the screening tools guide our ongoing visits; understanding of parent/child’s experiences shows us where to go next. All the while, documentation and data-base entry preserve all aspects of the work, painting a picture of where we’ve been, where we are now and where to go next….

The articles for this coming year will focus on “connecting the dots” in our work as home visitors, supervisors and training team/reflective consultants. As we continue to move deeper into the meaning of our work, how can we all be mindful and thoughtful about
where everything is connected? Stay tuned for more “dot connecting” in the coming months….

Talking points for supervisors

- What keeps you from seeing how all the dots connect?
- Are there places in your work with families where you disconnect from other aspects of the program?
- Are you making assumptions about certain parts of the work with families or have you just not thought about how all the pieces connect?

What do you see? What does the home visitor see? But it is still all connected!