



# Updates

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**FEBRUARY  
2006**

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## **Gaze Following in Infants**

by Mary Zaremba

**A** recent study on the development of gaze following in infants was reported in *Developmental Science*. The study was conducted by Rechele Brooks and Andrew Meltzoff at the Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences at the University of Washington. What makes gaze following in infants newsworthy and of interest to early intervention folks? Read on!



Previous studies have described gaze following as behavior that helps us understand what another is “thinking, feeling, and intending to do.” It has been noted that children with autism do not follow another’s gaze in ways that children who are typically developing do. The goal of this study was to differentiate whether babies follow the gaze of the other person or merely follow the direction of their head turning.

The authors designed their study to control for head motion with the conditions of eyes opened and eyes closed. The participating 96 infants were 9, 10, or 11 months of age. The examiners also noted any spontaneous vocalizations that occurred while looking (eyes open). The results of the study revealed that the 9-month olds did not discriminate whether adults look at the presented objects or just turned their heads toward the object with their eyes closed. The 9-month olds did not link person and object together. By 11 months, babies were adding vocalizations during eyes-opened conditions and rarely vocalizing during eyes closed. Furthermore, gaze following appears to be related to increased vocabulary comprehension at 14 and 18 months of age (not true of expressive language, as the ability to produce words requires other skills).

When babies at 10 and 11 months of age understand that others in their world are connected visually, then they have achieved a relevant step in the area of “social cognition.” Babies who have sensory impairments, physical limitations, or regulatory issues would benefit by interventions that would help them make that connection – that there is meaning when someone actually looks at a person, toy, or object. Once a baby has made that connection, then they have achieved an important step in acquiring the more sophisticated skill of understanding the intentions of others.

Brooks, R., & Meltzoff, A.N. (2005). The development of gaze following and its relation to language. *Developmental Science*, 8:6, 535-543.



## **Gallup Infant Mental Health Study Group**

**A**n infant mental health study group will meet the 4th Thursday of each month (February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, etc.) from 2:00-3:30 at DSI in Gallup. This group will discuss one chapter or case study each month. To begin, we will use cases from the book *Case Studies in Infant Mental Health: Risk, Resiliency, and Relationships (ZERO TO THREE, 2002)*. The group is open to anyone providing mental health and/or developmental services to children from birth to age three years and their families. The focus of the group will be shared learning and community networking as we apply relationship-based, reflective practices to our work with families. For additional information, contact Jacqui Van Horn, FIT NW Regional Coordinator at (505) 238-9085 or [jacquivanhorn@comcast.net](mailto:jacquivanhorn@comcast.net). The book can be ordered from: <http://www.zerotothree.org/bookstore/>.

## The Division Welcomes

### Dr. Sherri Alderman



Sherri Alderman, MD, MPH, joined the ECEP team recently as a pediatrician. Her professional interests are in early child development, applied research, and children's rights and empowerment. Her research areas include: systems analysis of CYFD report screening; economic analysis of cost-of-living in New Mexico; kids count data book; and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Sherri enjoys photography, knitting, and camping. She is a member of The Harmony Project Community Service, singing choral, and playing flute and dulcimer. *Habla Español.*



## Join the New Mexico Association of Infant Mental Health

by Jane Clarke

**B**rochures from the New Mexico Association of Infant Mental Health (NMAIMH) were distributed at the Interdisciplinary Early Care and Intervention Conference in October 2005. We would like to encourage you to support the NMAIMH by becoming a member and completing the application form, along with \$30 for the regular fee or \$15 for the student fee. If you did not receive a brochure, you can download one from the following website: <http://healthyhappybabies.com>.

The NMAIMH is dedicated to promoting children's social or emotional development through responsive, nurturing, caregiver-child relationships. The relationship is the milieu of development; it is where development happens moment-by-moment, day-by-day. It is also where development becomes derailed; moment-by-moment, day-by-day. Providers who work with parents and other caregivers of young children have a unique opportunity to influence positively these first relationships and to learn creative ways to work on this enormously complex process. This type of work will have a profound impact on our infants and parents, and ultimately the entire community.

By joining the NMAIMH, you honor the importance of this work. The NMAIMH is growing by leaps and bounds. We are currently developing competencies for Infant Mental Health Specialists, participating in state policymaking, and planning an Infant Mental Health Institute that will offer pertinent trainings related to in-depth knowledge, tools, and

strategies to support caregiver-child relationships. Membership will allow you to:

- be notified of upcoming trainings and discounts;
- network with NMAIMH professionals;
- attend monthly NMAIMH meetings; and
- have a voice in shaping the future of our families and state.

Please send application form and fee to:

NMAIMH

c/o NM Parent and Child Resources

3500 Indian School Road NE

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Attn: Anne Desiderio

*See you there...*

## What Babies Want

### An Exploration of the Consciousness of Infants

The award winning documentary film brings us inspiring stories, compelling, personal experiences, and information about babies from prenatal to birth and early life, and how these early experiences impact our entire lives. This remarkable film is narrated by Noah Wyle with commentary by Joseph Chilton Pearce, and a variety of experts, including the families. *What Babies Want* impresses us with the importance and spiritual significance of an infant's entry into the world. It is organized into "chapters" that convey aspects of the birthing process and early development. Powerful sounds and images are used to illustrate responses and likely communication in utero. A basic premise of the film is that given love, acceptance, and sense of belonging, an infant will develop into a more creative, flexible, and authentic human being.

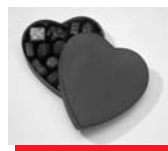


The film is available to borrow from the CDD Resource Center (LINC) by calling: 1-800-827-6380.

What Babies Want: An Exploration of the Consciousness of Infants. New Beginnings, Inc. VHS or DVD (57 minutes) \$29.95. 1-800-893-5070. <http://www.whatbabieswant.com>



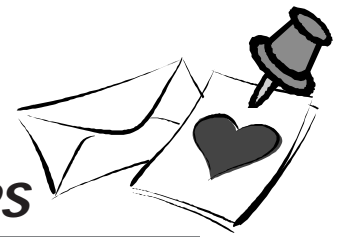
## Not All Chocolate is Created Equal



**Did you know.....**that **dark** chocolate contains more heart-healthy flavonoids than **any** other food - including green tea, black tea, red wine, and blueberries?

# PLEASE POST

Calendar 2006



## **EARLY INTERVENTION WORKSHOPS**

### **FEBRUARY 2006**

#### **February 21**

*The 90-Day Transition Conference  
Taos  
FIT Admin. Assistant  
Nicole Romero - 827-2578*

#### **February 23**

*Developing the Dream: The  
Individualized Family Service Plan  
Las Vegas  
ECN Program Consultant  
Mary Zaremba - 272-1042*

#### **February 28**

*Service Coordination  
Module 4 - Transition  
Albuquerque  
FIT Regional Coordinator  
Sherri Davidman - 256-1224*

### **MARCH 2006**

#### **March 2**

*The 90-Day Transition Conference  
Ruidoso  
FIT Admin. Assistant  
Nicole Romero - 827-2578*

#### **March 4**

*NMAEYC Annual Spring Conference  
Albuquerque  
Admin. Coordinator  
Bobbie Bailey - 823-1351*

#### **March 9**

*Service Coordination  
Module 1 - Family-Centered  
Espanola  
FIT Regional Coordinator  
Anna Marie Garcia - 753-2416*

#### **March 16-17**

*Service Coordination  
Modules 2 & 3 - Eligibility to IFSP  
Espanola  
FIT Regional Coordinator  
Anna Marie Garcia - 753-2416*

#### **March 30**

*Service Coordination  
Module 4 - Transition  
Espanola  
FIT Regional Coordinator  
Anna Marie Garcia - 753-2416*

### **APRIL 2006**

#### **April 10**

*Orientation to Part C  
Southwest Region  
FIT Manager  
Sbicca Brodeur - 841-5541*

#### **April 27**

*Orientation to Part C  
Albuquerque  
FIT Regional Coordinator  
Sherri Davidman - 256-1224*

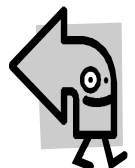
### **MAY 2006**

#### **May 25**

*It's Only Natural!  
Santa Fe  
ECN Program Consultant  
Mary Zaremba - 272-1042*

**SERVICE COORDINATION**  
modules are required for all new  
service coordinators working in  
early intervention programs.  
**It is highly recommended that  
these modules be taken in  
order, if at all possible.**

**Please make reservations  
for all workshops.**



## Feeding the Whole Child: A Mealtime Approach

**Presenter:** Suzanne Evans Morris, PhD, SLP  
**Dates:** March 11-13, 2006  
**Location:** Texas Tech University  
 Health Sciences Center, Lubbock, TX

trust building, personal wellness and challenges facing Native men and developing plans for fatherhood programs in Native communities. This event is sponsored by the Pueblo of Laguna at no cost to participants. Breakfast and lunch are included. To reserve your space, call Natalie Voelker at: (505) 552-6544.

Participants may register for 2 or 3 days. The first 2 days will be a stage presentation. The 3rd day will focus on demonstration with actual patients. Registration will be limited to 200 for Days 1 and 2, and 30 for Day 3. Persons who attend Day 3 must also attend Days 1 and 2. Registration is \$400 for 2 days and \$600 for 3 days.

For more information, contact Nancy Clopton at (806) 743-3236 or [nancy.clopton@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:nancy.clopton@ttuhsc.edu)



## NMAEYC Annual Spring Conference

The New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Spring Conference, *Hidden Communication: Do We Understand Each Other?* is Saturday, March 4, 2006 at the Albuquerque Convention Center. The keynote speaker is Father Michael Oleska, PhD. Dr. Oleska is described as a gifted speaker and writer in the area of cross-cultural education. Over 60 seminars will be offered on topics that include: advocacy, assessment, brain research, literacy, early childhood practices 0-8, family support, school age care, and others. There is a reception Friday, March 3rd from 6:00 to 8:00pm to honor Dr. Oleska, NMAEYC past presidents, and state leaders. For more information or to request a conference brochure and registration form, contact Bobbie Bailey at: (505) 823-1351 or 1-877-774-KIDS or [DRBailey2@aol.com](mailto:DRBailey2@aol.com).

## An Event for Dads!



Fatherhood Cluster Training will take place on Wednesday, February 22, 2006 at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque. The training will be facilitated by Clayton Small, PhD, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Nation. Dr. Small leads men's wellness and Native community change programs. His work includes developing the *Good Road of Life* model for Native men's wellness. While the training is geared to fathers who are Native American, it is open to dad's who are interested. The training will cover team and



## Rural Early Access to Children's Health (REACH) Telehealth Training Calendar

by Sandy Heimerl

**DATES:** 3rd Friday of the month from March 2006 – June 2006  
**TIMES/LOCATIONS:** 10:30am–12:00pm for sites located in Clovis, Gallup (Zuni), Farmington, Las Vegas  
 12:30pm–2:00pm for sites located in Carlsbad, Alamogordo, Las Cruces, Roswell, Lordsburg

*Plan to offer CEU's and Developmental Specialist hours towards recertification.*

DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
March 17, 2006	Exposure to Methamphetamines	Judy Ledman, MD, ECEP
April 21, 2006	Infant Mental Health: Principles and Practice	Marcia Moriarta, PsyD, ECEP
May 19, 2006	Typical Language Development/When is it Problematic/When to Refer	Nancy Brandon, MS, CCC-SLP, ECEP
June 16, 2006	Strategies to Support Engagement, Social Communication and Play (DIR)	Sandy Heimerl, MS, PT, ECEP

### To Register:

E-mail [REACHCDD@salud.unm.edu](mailto:REACHCDD@salud.unm.edu) a minimum of two weeks prior to the date so that you can reserve a space. If your reservation has not been confirmed, call Karin Fulford at (505) 272-3844. We will provide you with handouts for the training. For participation in the Metro Region, please make a reservation. Training is available at the UNM Center for Telehealth in Albuquerque. For questions concerning REACH, contact Sandy Heimerl at (505) 272-0096 or [sheimerl@salud.unm.edu](mailto:sheimerl@salud.unm.edu) or visit the website: <http://cdd.unm.edu/REACH>

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## **CDD Resource Center (LINC)**

1-800-827-6380 or 272-0281

Visit our website at <http://cdd.unm.edu/ec>

Early Childhood Programs are funded in part by the New Mexico Department of Health



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