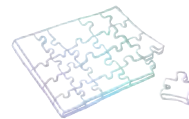


**Research findings  
show a responsive home  
environment benefits a  
young child's social and  
emotional development.**

The early childhood practice described in this brochure is based on findings presented in a practice-based research synthesis conducted at the Research and Training Center on Early Childhood Development by C. M. Trivette (2004). Influence of Home Environment on the Social-Emotional Development of Young Children. *Bridges*, 2(2). Visit [www.researchtopractice.info](http://www.researchtopractice.info) to read or download the complete research synthesis and/or a user-friendly, illustrated summary, *Bottomlines* 2(2). Printed copies are available from Winterberry Press ([www.wbpress.com](http://www.wbpress.com)). All opinions expressed are those of the Research and Training Center on Early Childhood Development and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Research to Practice Division, funder of the work of the RTC (H324K010005).



#### **Evidence-Based Practice Guides**

Additional practice guides are available from the RTC for this and other important early childhood topics.

Related materials also are available as part of *Solutions* evidence-based tool kits.

Please see descriptions of these resources and information for ordering under "Products" at

[www.researchtopractice.info](http://www.researchtopractice.info)

Research and Training Center on Early Childhood Development  
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*Cornerpiece*

## **Creating a Responsive Home Environment**

*A responsive  
home environment  
benefits a young child's  
social and emotional  
development*

**An  
Evidence-Based  
Early Childhood  
Practice**

## Responsive Home Environments Promote Social Ease



Interacting with a friendly neighbor in her garden is a perfect opportunity for a little fellow to build a strong sense of social comfort.

### What is the practice?

To help a young child develop social ease:

- 1 Provide a variety of learning materials and toys that interest and challenge your child, placing them where the child can use them regularly;
- 2 Be sensitive and responsive in the way you relate with your child; and
- 3 Encourage your child to explore and interact with the people and objects he or she encounters in everyday settings.

### How do we do it?

1 Make the places where your child spends her days richly populated with people and things that capture her interest. This little girl regularly plays with the bright, whirler-wing bird ornament in her family's garden.



2



Let your home be a welcoming place where he enjoys frequent encounters with all kinds of people of all ages. Their attention and positive responsiveness will help him develop healthy emotions and social behaviors.

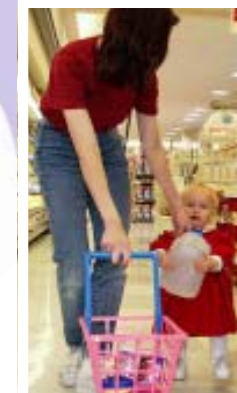
3

Think of the places and objects in your home from your young child's perspective. Arrange things so that he can experience, explore, and learn from a great variety of toys and everyday objects on a regular basis. These small brothers, for example, relish the splashy and imaginative fun of play time in the kitchen sink.



### Take a look!

It's easy to take your responsive style on routine trips to places like the supermarket. Encounters with lots of interesting people and things are found along every aisle. Your young child can enjoy participating by helping you select items, pushing her toy cart to gather groceries, and greeting and "chatting" with the checkout staff.



### Is it working?

He is comfortable in the presence of unfamiliar people. He smiles when a parent or caregiver helps him meet someone new.



She shows interest in exploring new places and interacting with new people and new things.