



“Goodness of Fit” in the Foster Care System: Considering the Critical Needs of Infants and Young Children in the Child Welfare System

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Learning Objectives

1. Describe how infants develop what is referred to as “procedural memories” early on, which greatly influence the automatic habits and routines of the interpersonal dance within relationships
2. Explain that infants and their parents need high quality relationships in order to recover from abuse and neglect
3. Describe how a shared, common language for understanding infants across all aspects of the child welfare system can promote continuity and cohesion
4. Demonstrate that infants can be “understood” through their non-verbal cues across their sleep-awake cycles that all disciplines can learn to read
5. Demonstrate that assessment is intervention and intervention is assessment rather than two separate processes.
6. Utilize different clinical approaches to healing trauma using a neurodevelopmental approach
7. Observe how traumatic narratives can be expressed through sensorimotor play and procedural enactments
8. Describe how important the sensory system’s triggers and preferences are in working through trauma
9. Create interventions that account for the importance of the relevance system’s range of emotional themes from aggressor, to victim, to protector in working through traumatic enactments

Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic
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