



Plenary Presentation: Listening to Babies
in St. Petersburg Early Learning Centers:
Children, Families and Community
From the 'You Are Not Alone' Series: Handle with Care

Presented by program providers Jackie Lang (Imagination Station) and
Twanna Monroe (Infinite Potential Learning Center)

1

Overview & Objectives

- Understanding what it means to respect infants and their perspectives, and the value of being non-intrusive in children's space
- Learning the family background and the schemas (urges) of each individual infant and toddler
- Triaging needs based on infants and toddlers' developmental stages and unique personalities
- Planning purposeful and sensible interactions with older preschool age (3-4-year-old) children

2

Thought question:
What will be the qualities our
children most need in their future?



3

Videos: How do we view children?

What a caregiver
might structure



vs a child's exploration when
left to their own natural abilities



4

Historical Perspective of Children

- Children were historically viewed as owned property
- They were often spoken to or at, but not with
- They were viewed as not having personal views or opinion
- There were concerns for animal rights before there were institutions dedicated to child welfare



5

What Happens If We Change Our View of Young Children?



6

Key Points

- A top priority is promoting “basic trust” for infants and toddlers
- **Uninterrupted Play** is what allows a child the freedom to explore on their own -- without being told “what” to do or “how” to play
- Concept free **observations** can help identify a child’s developmental needs
- 3-4-year-olds need an **environment** that is safe, consistent, cognitively challenging and emotionally supportive.



Imagine if...

7

From the experiences they have with adults, children learn mutual respect



8



Video: Building Relationships

Cultivating the qualities that we desire to see in our students relies on building healthy relationships with them early.