

TIPS FOR PARENTS of infants and toddlers

Love Your Child

Be your child's first love.

- ★ Your child comes into the world ready to learn how to love.
- ★ Your loving touch, patience, and smile speak louder than words. Your actions teach the meaning of love.



Bond With Your Child

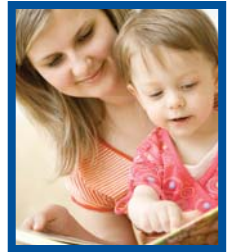
Teach your baby to love.

- ★ The bond between a parent and child is very important and begins to develop on your first day together.
- ★ Sing to your child, talk to your child, hold your child. Let them know you are there.
- ★ Listen and respond to your child in a loving way. Take care of their need for food, sleep, play, cuddling, and talking.

Read to Your Child

Read picture books, stories, newspapers, and street signs. Your child wants to hear your voice.

- ★ Read together everyday beginning at birth. Your child loves your voice and being close to you.
- ★ When you read to your child, you create a loving moment.
- ★ Reading to your child teaches them the value of reading and helps them to someday read on their own.



Teach Your Child Friendship

Your child watches how you treat others and will copy what they see.



- ★ From birth on, your child is learning how to treat others by what they see, hear, and feel in their own world. Show them a world that is kind and caring.
- ★ You are your child's guide to learning how to be a friend and become a citizen of the world.

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Medical and Dental Care

Your child needs you to take care of their developing bodies and teeth.

- ★ Your child needs to have regular visits with a doctor starting at birth.
- ★ Check-ups and immunizations are very important to keep your child healthy.
- ★ Your child should visit a dentist every six months beginning at age two. Brushing and flossing start with a baby's first tooth!



Early Prevention and Intervention

Watch how your child develops, and get help if you have any concerns.

- ★ Every child grows and learns in their own way, at their own pace.



- ★ Some children need a little help along the way. Getting help for your child early in life goes a long way toward avoiding problems later on.
- ★ For more information, contact your local school district's early childhood program.

Early Childhood Screening

Be sure your child is developing well. Take them for early childhood screening at age three.

- ★ You know your child best, but checking to see if they are on track with their development is helpful.
- ★ Early childhood screening is free, fun, and offered through your school district's early education program.



See other side for more tips

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Minnesota Initiative Foundations

MINNESOTA EARLY CHILDHOOD



INITIATIVE

a campaign for our youngest children

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