



PRESENTS

How to engage in sensory play with infants

GIVEAWAY!

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Winner will be announced in our show notes email!

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Each State and Province has different licensing rules and regulations. **Please consult with your own legal and financial advisors before implementing something that you are not 100% sure about at your center.**

Land Acknowledgement

HiMama acknowledges that our main headquarters is situated in Toronto, Ontario, on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.



Diversity & Inclusion

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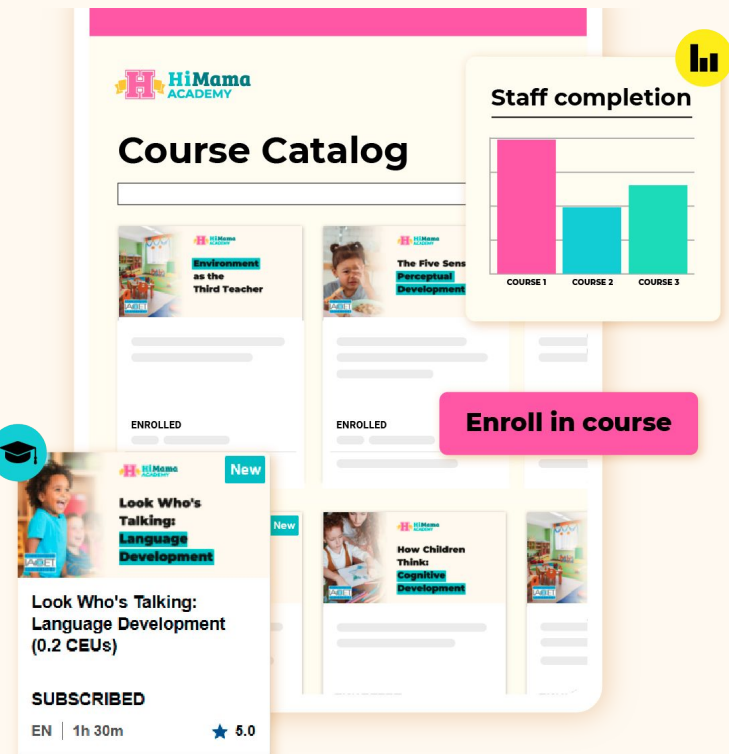
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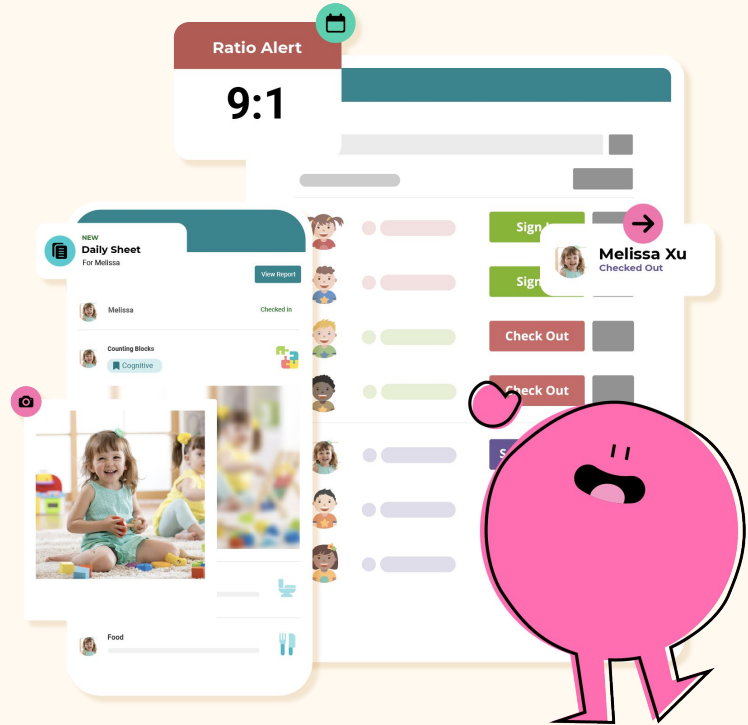
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That's Maddie!



And that's Lina!

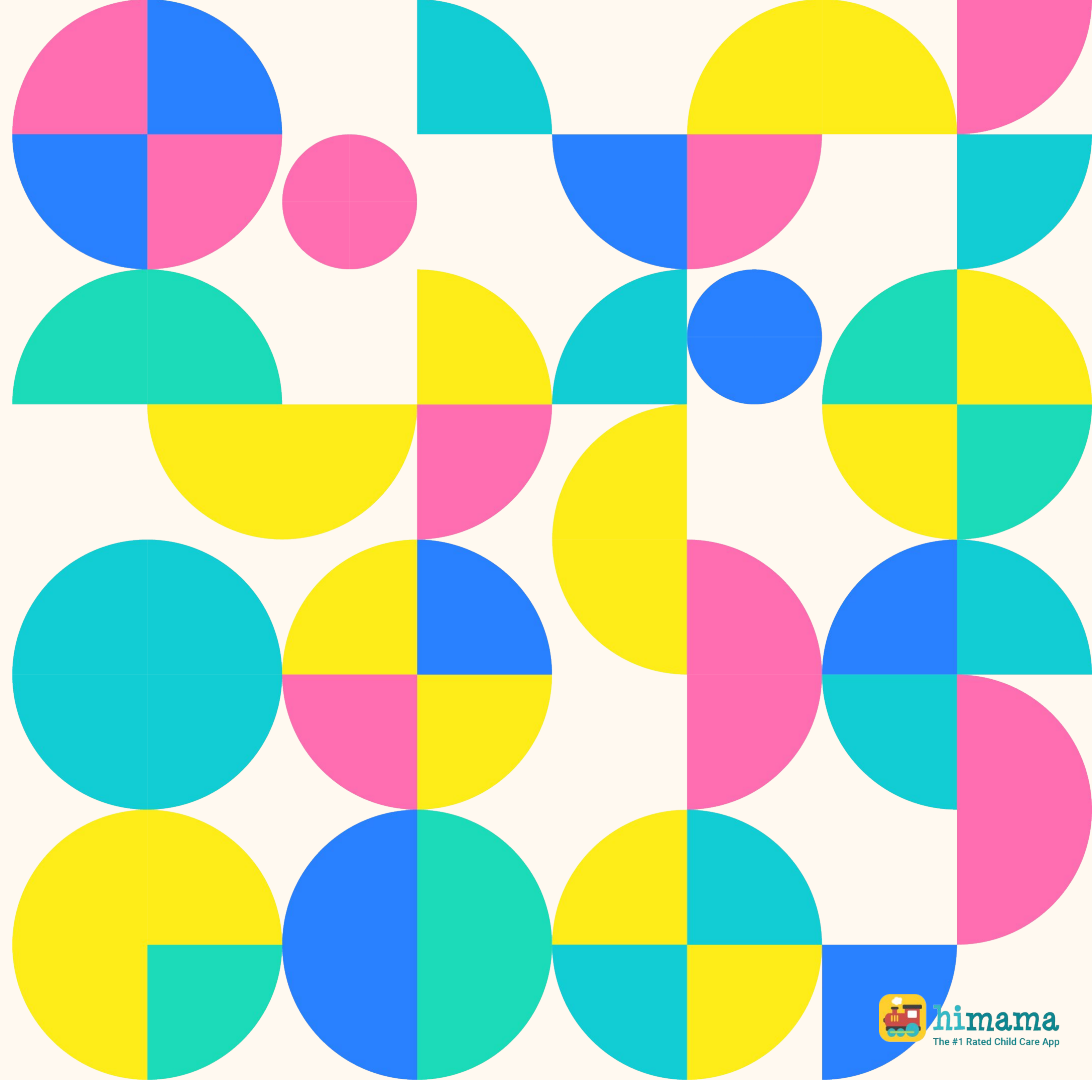
Our Special Guest

Teresa Narey, Curriculum Manager, [Funshine Express](#)



Takeaways For Today

1. A strong foundation in infant development is an educator's best tool in planning sensory experiences.
2. Sensory play is the inherent work of infancy; it is open-ended and accomplished with everyday tools and objects.
3. Observation and assessment are key to setting up sensory experiences and knowing where to guide children next.





Engaging in Sensory Explorations with Infants



Engaging in Sensory Explorations with Infants

- Overview of Infant Development
- Setting Up Sensory Explorations
- Re-evaluating Time and Effort
- Safety
- Communicating with Families
- References



Infant Development

- Infancy is a period of rapid fine and gross motor development.
- Babies are discovering their body parts and gaining control over them.

0 to 3 Months

According to Parlakian and Lerner (2008), babies are:

- beginning to recognize the faces, voices, and smells of loved ones
- using sounds, facial expressions, and body movements to communicate
- using their bodies to make things happen (e.g., gripping toys)
- learning to trust that loved ones are reading/responding to their signals



3 to 6 Months

Babies are:

- pushing themselves up
- sitting with support
- rolling to move closer to objects of interest
- exploring with their fingers, hands, and mouths
- reaching for and grasping objects



6 to 9 Months

Babies are:

- dropping objects and looking to see where they went (object permanence)
- picking up small objects using thumb and other fingers
- sitting on their own
- crawling/scooting to move around (possibly pulling to stand)
- copying the actions of others

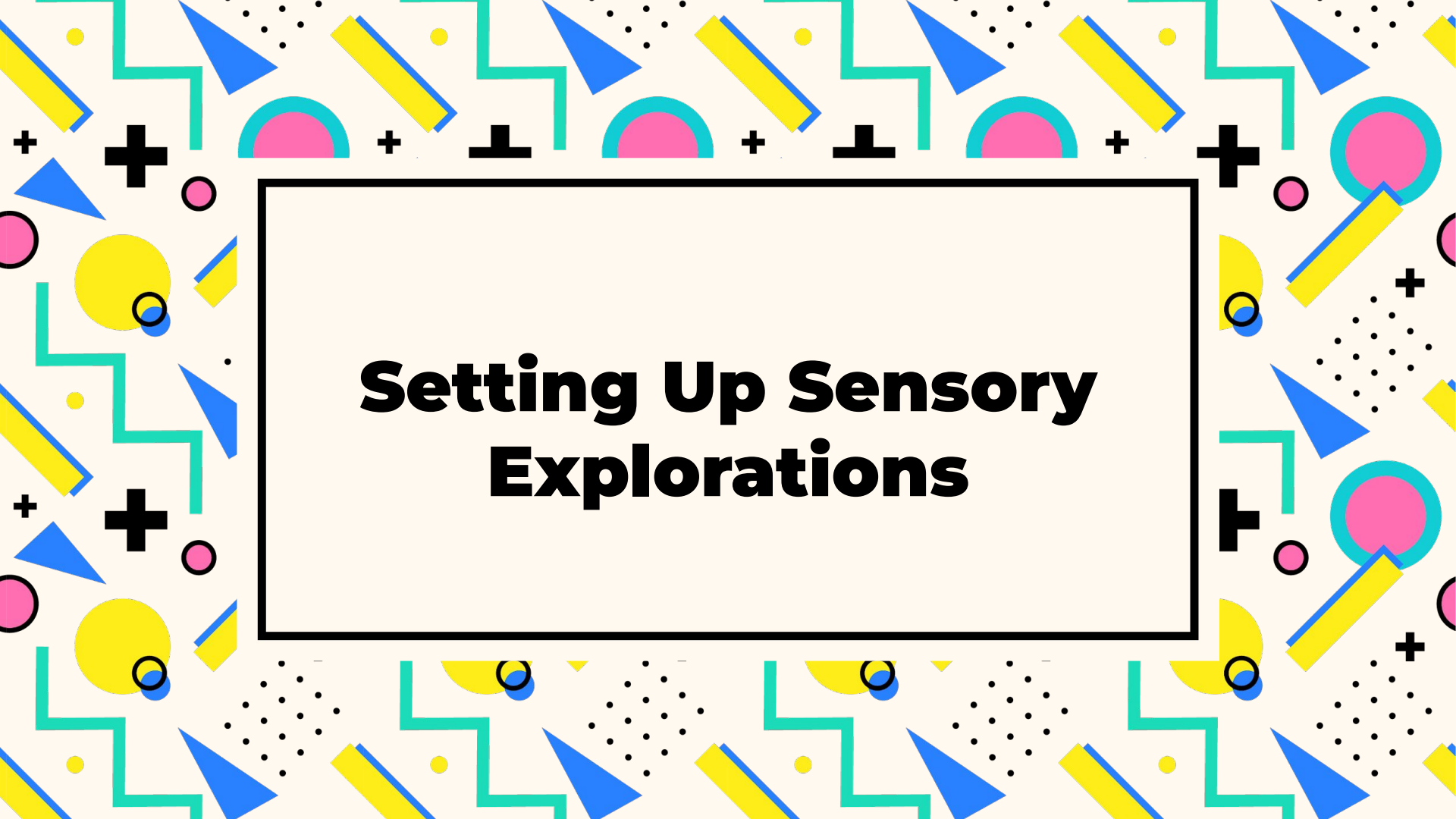


9 to 12 Months

Babies are:

- beginning to follow simple directions
- crawling/scooting more assertively
- walking with support; some independently
- repeating tasks over and over again





Setting Up Sensory Explorations



What will sensory explorations with infants look like?

They will involve:

- Basic art materials
- Everyday objects
- Experimentation with observation

Setting Up

Basic art materials

Offer open-ended play with:

- tempera paint or finger paint
- contact paper
- stickers
- types of paper/cardboard
- playdough or clay
- dot markers
- crayons/chalk/markers/colored pencils
- craft sticks
- ink pads/large stampers



(Galuski & Bardsley, 2018; Schwarz & Luckenbill, 2012)

Setting Up

Everyday objects

Offer open-ended play with:

- types of brushes
- kitchenware
- large nature items
- baskets/boxes
- mirrors
- textured toys/objects
- fabric
- musical instruments
- water/soil
- bubble wrap



(Galuski & Bardsley, 2018; Schwarz & Luckenbill, 2012)

Setting Up

Experimentation with observation

- As children experiment, observe to assess:
 - Each child's level of interest in the material provided
 - How to modify the activity for sensory avoiders/make accommodations for special needs (Schwarz & Luckenbill, 2012)
 - How to expand the activity based on the children's interests
 - The best way to share the experience with families

Setting Up

Process	Art Material/Everyday Object	Experience
Encounter 1	Types of paper	Children feel different textures, crumple and scrunch paper, tear it.
Encounter 2	Fabric + bubble wrap	Offer fabrics for touching/holding; tape bubble wrap to floor to pat or crawl over.
Encounter 3	Bubble wrap + finger paint	Spoon finger paint on surface and tape bubble wrap over top. Children can press bubble wrap to move paint around.
Encounter 4	Finger paint + paper	Children finger paint on paper.

Process	Art Material/Everyday Object	Experience
Encounter 1	Boxes	Children can freely handle the boxes; touch them, tap/bang on them, stack/nest them.
Encounter 2	Boxes + wooden spoons/similar kitchen tools	Children experiment with using the kitchen tools to make sounds on boxes.
Encounter 3	Wooden spoons (slatted/non-slatted)+ measuring cups + water	Children play with spoons in water to observe water moving through slats. Splash/scoop water.
Encounter 4	Water + soap	Children play in bubbly water.

Your Turn!

Process	Art Material/Everyday Object	Experience
Encounter 1	Material(s) offered	Describe children's experience
Encounter 2	Add onto/change the activity	Describe objective



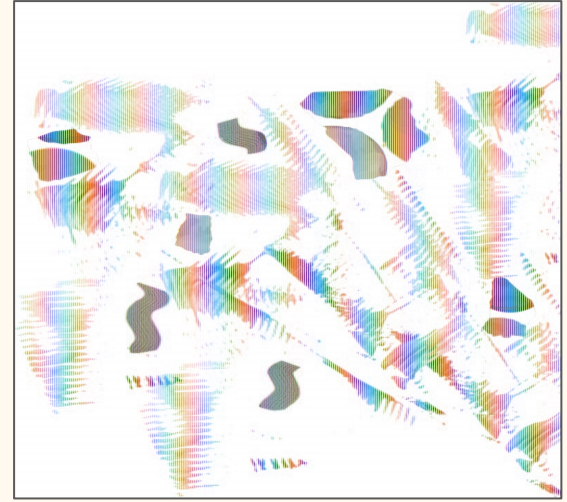
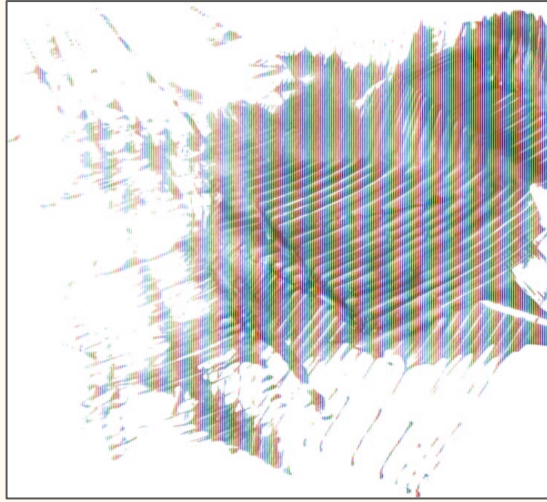
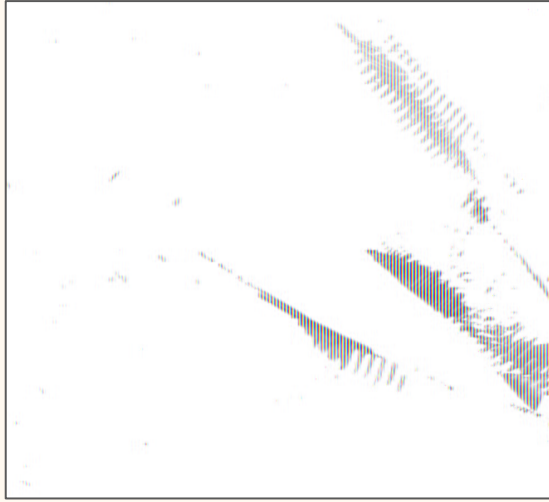
Re-evaluating Time & Effort



Time & Effort

What are children ready to do?

- Know which milestones have been met
- Know each child's emerging skills
- Know each child's interests
- Know the objective



Figures 1, 2, 3
Color Collage

Note, adapted from *Buttercups* [Illustrations], by
FunShine Express Early Learning Curricula,
2022, Print

Time & Effort

Who is doing the work?



Time & Effort

Is your environment prepared?

- Choose simple materials; have them ready
- Have clean-up materials nearby

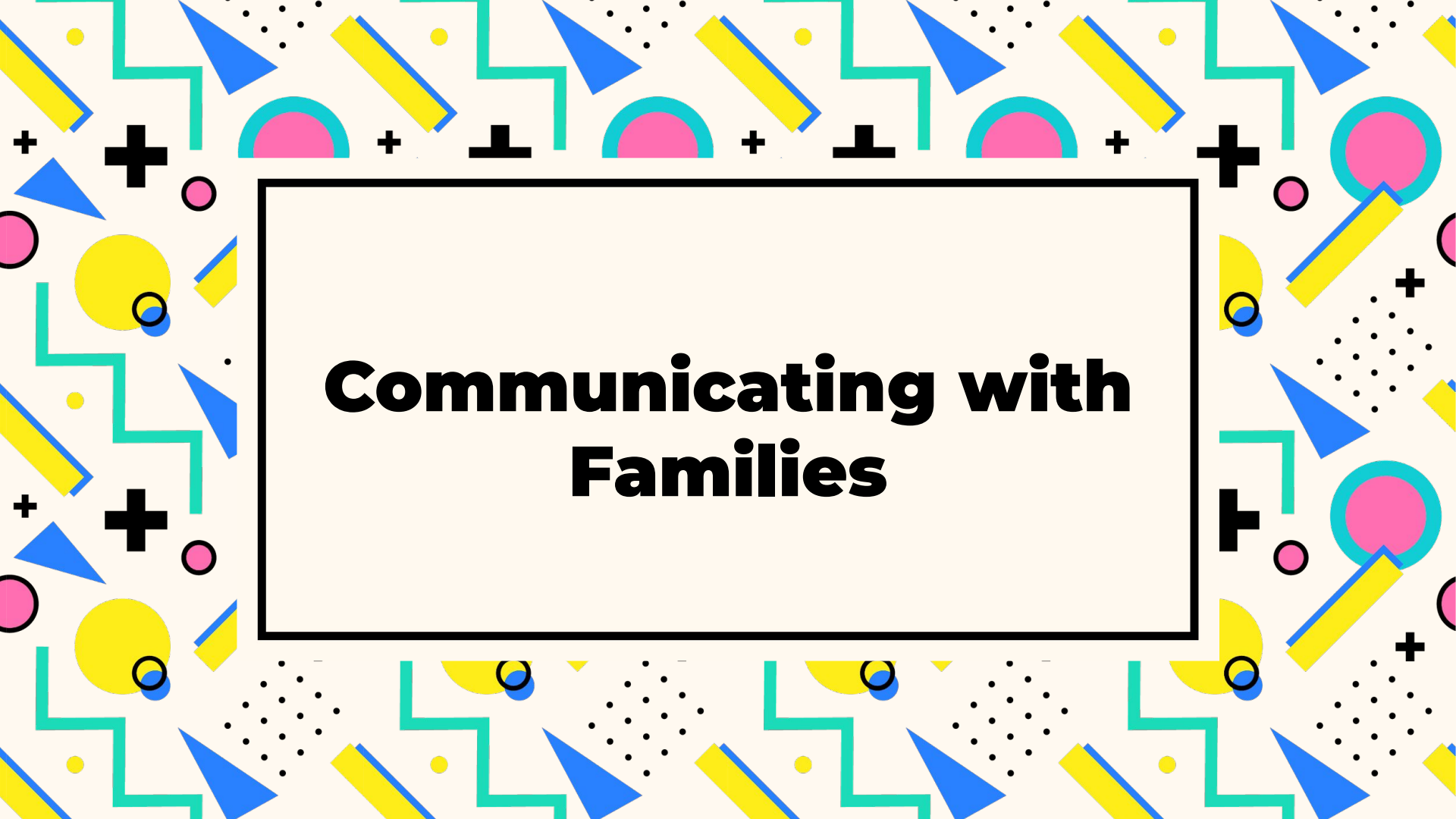


Safety

Safety

- Make sure all materials are nontoxic
- Choose materials that are washable
- Avoid food-based sensory experiences
- Use a small parts tester
- Be present



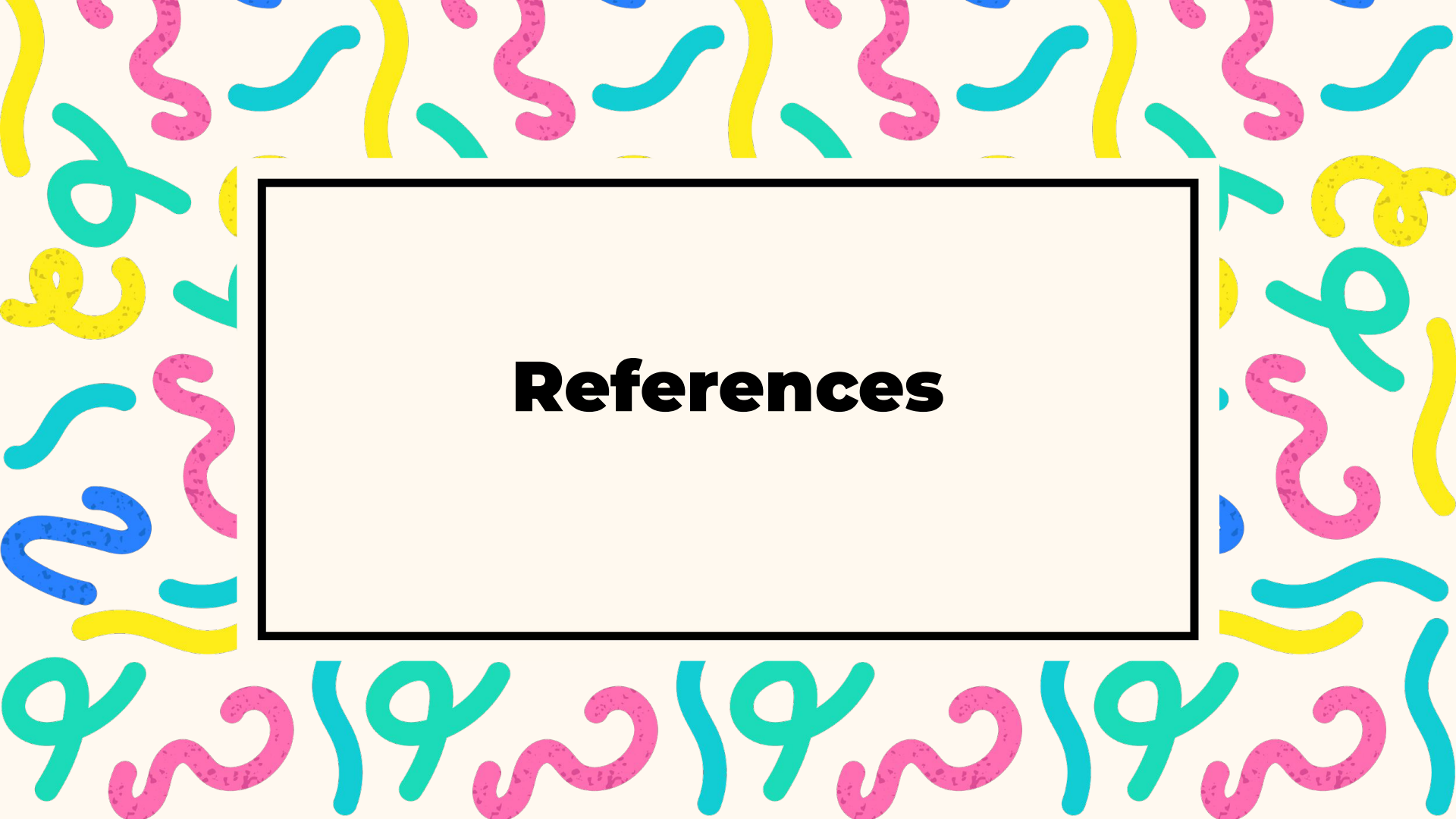


Communicating with Families



Communicating

- Inform families of your approach from the beginning.
- Photograph children as they engage with materials and display images regularly.
- As children advance in their capabilities, frame their work for showing.
- Develop a portfolio that demonstrates children's fine and gross motor development throughout the year.
- Protect children's clothing by using old T-shirts, smocks, or experimenting with materials while in diapers.
- Give families a heads up about messy sensory experiences.
- Keep a change of clothes on hand.



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Special Guest Q&A



**We want to hear from
YOU!**

HIMAMA CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT ✨

"Hi, my name is Tashelle Joseph and I am a Registered Early Childhood Educator. I am the Operations Manager at Muskoka Lakes Preschool in Port Carling, ON. I am very passionate about the field of Early Childhood Education as I love working with children and being a part of their growth and development. My work in early learning is important to me because I am eager to grasp the knowledge and skills to an enhance my skills in the field and provide high quality and fun learning experiences for the children".



HIMAMA CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

TASHELLE JOSEPH

Director, Muskoka Lakes Preschool





Special Guest Q&A

Our Special Guest

Teresa Narey

Teresa Narey is the curriculum manager at FunShine Express and has been in the field for 15 years. She is passionate about social-emotional learning, professional development, understanding theories of child development, and neurodiversity. Prior to joining FunShine, Teresa held various roles in ECE, including assistant director, lead toddler and pre-K teacher, Title I tutor, after-school program instructor, and nanny. Teresa believes high-quality curriculum can be a powerful training tool and equip educators with the knowledge necessary to advocate for the childcare profession. Her educational background includes an MEd in ECE with an Administration specialization from Champlain College, an MFA in Creative Writing: Writing for Children from Chatham University, and a BA in English from Rutgers University.



Teresa Narey
[Funshine Express](#)

What's Next?

1. **Show Notes & Recording** - You will receive an email linking to resources and this recording early next week!
2. Our next session will be ***Strategies for enhancing emotional regulation in young children*** happening next week at the same place and same time - ***Thursday, July 28th, 2022***

Register Here!



Strategies for enhancing emotional regulation in young children

JAN BLAXALL, MASC, RECE AND JANET FOSTER, BA,
RECE FROM TOOLS FOR LIFE

THURS , JULY 28TH | 2PM ET



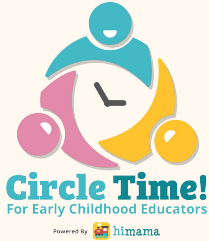
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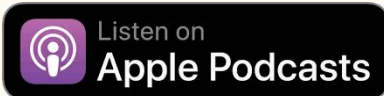
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We're all in this together, stay healthy and stay safe!