How to Parent Foster and Adoptive Children with the Five Love Languages

Building Attachments with Love Languages

The Five Love Languages, by Dr. Gary Chapman shares the idea that each of us gives and receives love in different ways. The use of love languages is a way to build bonds with anyone that you care about, but is also a wonderful way to build an attachment with foster or adopted children.

Dr. Chapman feels that each child has an "emotional tank." When a child really feels loved his love tank will be full, but when the love tank is empty, the child will have behaviors. "Much of the misbehavior of children is motivated by the cravings of an empty 'love tank.'" How many of us are parenting children from the foster care system or from an orphanage that are operating on empty love tanks?

What Are the Five Love Languages?

1. Words of Affirmation
2. Quality Time
3. Receiving Gifts
4. Acts of Service
5. Physical Touch

Unleash Your Child's Inner Artist

If you've watched the new PBS KIDS series PINKALICIOUS & PETERRIFIC®, then you know that Pinkalicious and her little brother Peter are all about art! Letting your child explore her creative side can lead to benefits, such as improved reading, writing, science and math skills. It also helps children express themselves. Explore these simple, low-cost ways to make art a part of your family's everyday life!

Find More Ways to Get Creative

Say "I Love You" with Books

Kids start developing a sense of self at a young age. As parents, we want our kids to know that they are loved - and to love themselves. Give your child the gift of a book this Valentine's Day, write a little note in it, and use it as a way to say "I Love You" that he or she can treasure forever.

Find a Listing of Books

Caring for Children Who Have Been Neglected or Abused

The Child Welfare Information Gateway recently issued a new factsheet titled Parenting a Child Who Experienced Abuse or Neglect. Children who have been abused or neglected need safe and nurturing relationships that address the effects of child maltreatment. The factsheet is intended to help birth, foster, and adoptive parents and other caregivers understand the challenges of caring for these children.
What is Early ACCESS?

Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers

Early ACCESS is a partnership between families with young children, birth to age three, and providers from the Departments of Education, Public Health, Human Services, and the Child Health Specialty Clinics. The purpose of this program is for families and staff to work together in identifying, coordinating, and providing needed services and resources that will help the family assist their infant or toddler to develop and learn.

Services

The family and providers work together to identify and address specific family concerns and priorities as they relate to the child's overall growth and development. In addition, broader family needs and concerns can be addressed by locating other supportive/resource services in the local community for the family and/or child. All services to the child are provided in the child's natural environment including the home and other community settings where children of the same age without disabilities participate.

To learn more and visit their website click here.