

Respond to the questions below based on your review of the video: Five Steps for Brain-Building from the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University.

1-Identify and describe each of the 5 steps of the "serve and return" interaction.

- The five steps are:

1. Share the focus: To serve and enable the child in the object that brings them interest. We should pay attention to what the child is drawn to; helping share the focus enables curiosity, and strengthens bonds.
2. Support & Encourage: This is to provide feedback in the child doing a task, by responding through expressions. By responding to their task or action reassures the child and lets them know that they are understood and heard.
3. Name it: Responding through verbal communication. This helps make important connections in the brain. Naming the object the child is drawn to helps them understand the world around them and gives them words to associate with the object.
4. Take turns, back and forth: This steps shows the child how to practice self control and how to get along with others. Always allow room for the child to respond, this allows for confidence and independence to be gained.

5. Practice endings and beginnings: This step focuses on when a child is starting an activity. By helping them lead the next activity helps them explore the world.

2-Explain the significance of each step on brain development.

- The significance of each step is critical because it helps the child's brain to develop. Interactions mold and play significant roles in the child, the brain will grow stronger if the steps are implemented and done well.

3-What are some concerns for children who don't have the opportunity to experience "serve and return" interactions.

If the child does not experience "serve & return" interaction then the child will not receive the proper brain stimulation needed to thrive properly. It will affect them behaviorally, mentally, and could negatively impact their overall health.

4-What are some possible ways a social worker could intervene?

Play therapy could be a great intervention for the child who is experiencing delays.

5-What policies could be implemented to help families with children at this stage?

Attending a mommy and baby group where the child could interact with other children and the mom can be supported in how to do "serve & receive" properly. A clinician can also create homework set help reach goals.

6-What further research could be done to increase knowledge in this area?

We could do research on how a child is affected in the long run and in their life when it comes to serve and receive. It would be interesting to see a grown up whose parents worked with them vs another adult who did not practice serve & receive.