

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

1. Share the focus- In this step, the main goal of this step is to show interest on the same things that the child is. In this step, pointing, sounds and physical cues are all important in responding to the child and building that serve and return relationship.
2. Support and encourage- In this step, the main goal is responding verbally with words of encouragement, things like, "thank you" or "that's right". This can also be facial expressions as well.
3. Name it- In this step, it is important to name things that they are either pointing to, holding, or interested in.
4. Taking turns back and forth- In this step it is important in order to teach the baby self-control and how to relate to others.
5. Practice endings and beginnings- In this step, it is important to allow toys to be set down and played with, then allow them to end this activity and begin a new one.

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

1. In this step, curiosity builds as well as the relationship between the child and their caregiver.
2. In this step, by playing and interacting with them, it lets the child know that their thoughts and feelings are heard and understood.
3. In this step, words are provided to give the child knowledge for later as well as let the child know that words and communicating are important to you.
4. In this step, patience is taught to the child. By waiting, the child learns independence and confidence.
5. In this step, the child is supported in exploring their world.

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

If the caregiver's responses are not reliable or inappropriate, the developing brain of the child can be disrupted. This will have implications for physical, mental and emotional health. This will help the child distinguish "us" and "them" and will be able to move past this process in development.

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

A social worker can intervene by advocating for the child as well as educating the parents in the positive impacts these behaviors can have. A social worker can also help implement these practices in other areas as well through macro practice.

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

One of the biggest roadblocks to the implementation of this strategy is time. A policy mandating this practice in daycares and preschools should be necessary. A policy can also be implemented for certain classes about this could be created for parental education as well.

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

Further research on the ways that this type of relationship can be beneficial to older children should be looked into as well. Although the brain is not growing as rapidly, this idea of sharing the focus could very well increase a child's willingness to open up to their caregiver.