

Language Development:

INFANTS

Watch Video Now

Certification



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Stephanie Seidler, Director of We Skoolhouse

Video

Please review the professional development training video; you will need approximately 60 minutes to complete the training.



Certification

Please take a moment to complete the learning review provided. Upon submission, your certification will be sent to you immediately.

Start



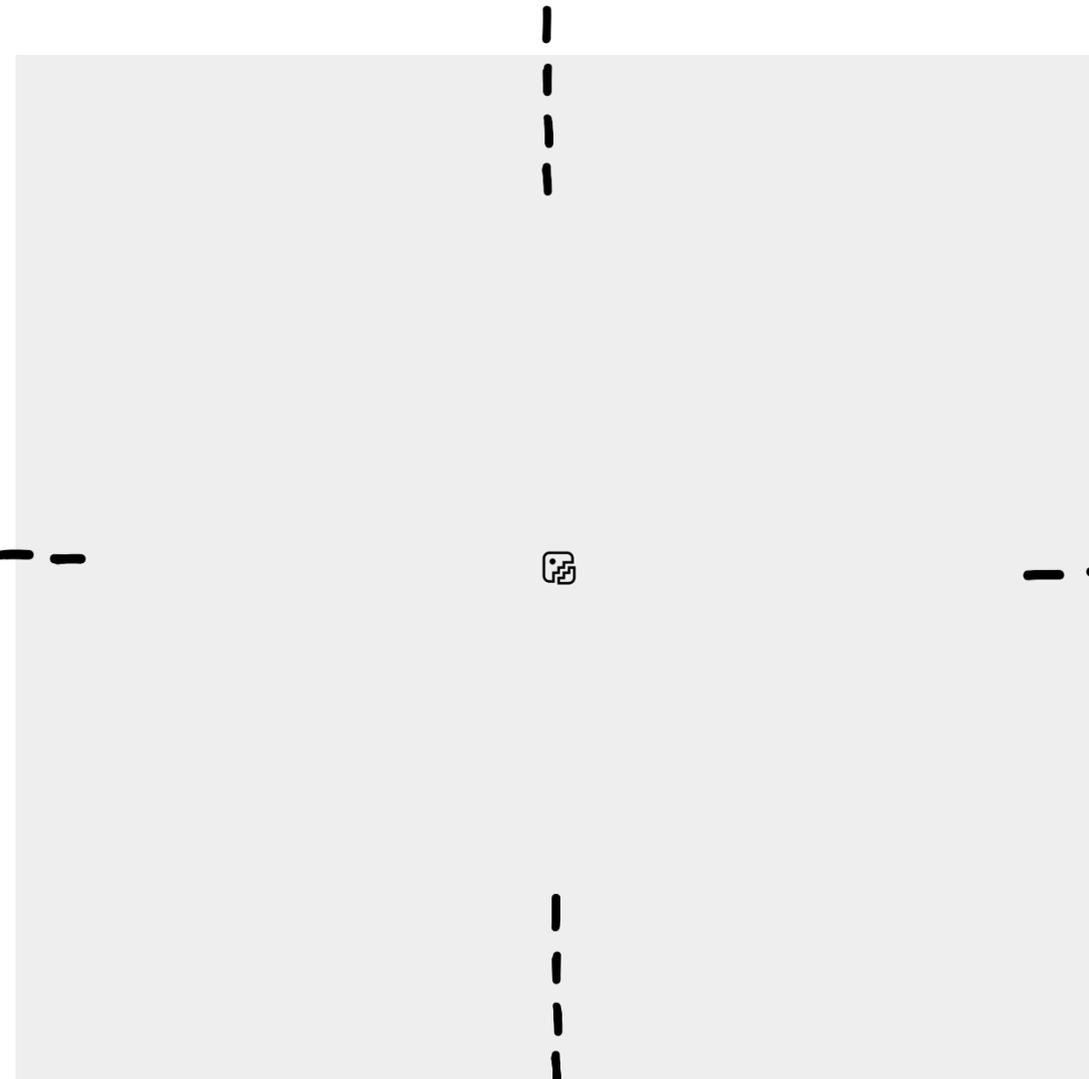
INTRO: LET'S DIVE IN!

- Intro to Brain Science (Bare with Me...)
- The **DO's** of Communication & Language Development
- The **DON'TS** of Communication & Language Development
- Questions - Let's Hear Them!

Intro to Brain Science

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT: **FIRST FIVE YEARS OF LIFE**

Compromised of billions of neurons, in which experiences and interactions during this critical period determine how neurons wire and connect.



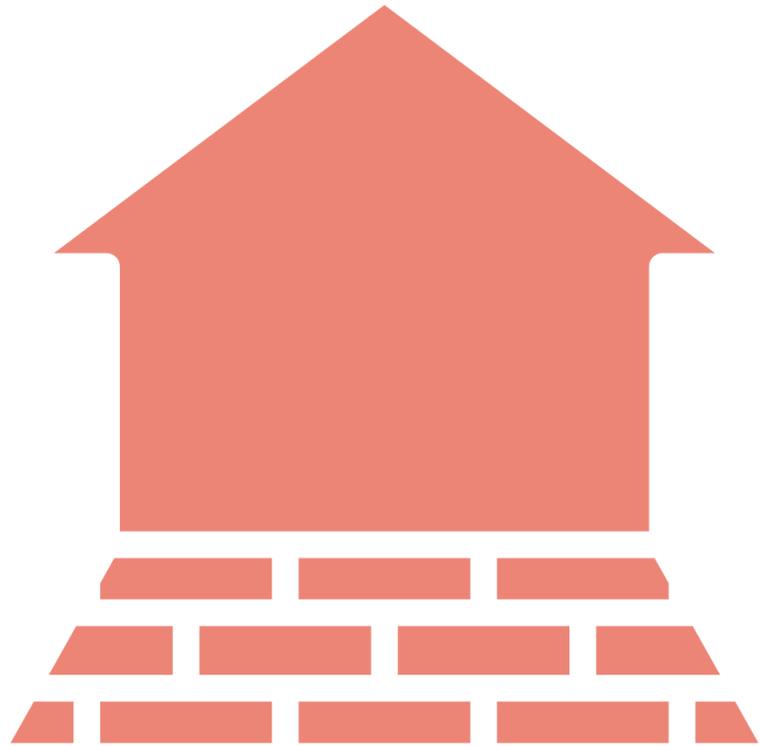
Highly “plastic,”
meaning it can form new
neural connections and
adapt and rewire itself in
response to experiences.

Sensory Integration
is crucial for brain
development, as it
builds connections
and associations.

90% of the brain develops by age five, making these years the most critical.

BEFORE AGE 5...

The brain is constantly forming new connections.



Think of the brain as the foundation of a house...



...or a machine you're building, like a car.

AFTER AGE 5...

The brain focuses on refining and consolidating existing skills & knowledge.



Think of this as the home or car's maintenance & updates.

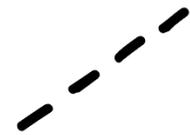
THE BRAIN & COMMUNICATION

Verbal Communication:

Involves the use of spoken language to convey messages. Verbal communication includes conversations and storytelling.

Nonverbal Communication (70-90%):

This refers to communication that occurs without the use of words. Includes facial expressions, body language, gestures, eye contact, and posture.



Tactile Communication:

Involves the use of touch to convey messages and emotions. It includes gestures such as handshakes, and hugs.

Visual Communication:

Involves the use of images, graphics, symbols, and visual aids to convey information and ideas. Examples include charts, graphs, diagrams, maps, and photos.

Auditory Communication:

Involves the use of sounds, tones, and vocal cues to convey messages. This includes spoken language, music, and sound effects.

5 FACTS ABOUT LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT IN INFANCY

- **Hearing Before Birth:** Babies start hearing sounds in the womb during the 18th-20th week of pregnancy. They hear the language spoken around them before they're born, which helps them get ready for talking.
- **Telling Languages Apart:** Newborns can tell the difference between different languages by how they sound, even when they're just a few days old. The exposure to multiple languages in infancy may enhance the development of cognitive and language skills.
- **How Brains Work:** Baby brains react differently to sounds they know compared to new sounds, showing they're getting used to their native language.
- **Starting Early:** Babies are ready to understand language from the moment they're born, so it's important to talk to them right from the start.

The Do's of Communication

THE “DO’S” OF LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:

- **Do** Talk To Your Babies
- **Do** Read Together (Over and Over Again)
- **Do** Sing Songs & Rhymes (Over and Over Again)
- **Do** Provide a Communication Rich Environment
- **Do** Respond Promptly & Positively



DO TALK TO YOUR BABIES

- Engage in **frequent and meaningful conversations** with your babies, even before they can respond with words.
- Describe what you're doing, **narrate your daily activities, and respond to your baby's sounds** and gestures with enthusiastic speech.



DO READ TOGETHER

- **Make reading a daily habit**, reading books several times throughout the day, while pointing to pictures and talking about the story.
- Re-read the same books over and over again as **repetition is crucial** to build familiarity and construct meaning.
 - A study on language acquisition found that children pick up new vocabulary quicker from repeated readings of the same book than when they encounter the same words in different new texts (Horst, Parsons & Bryan, 2011).



DO SING SONGS & RHYMES

- **Singing songs and reciting rhymes** are fun and engaging ways to expose your baby to language.
- Choose familiar nursery rhymes and children's songs, and **incorporate hand movements and gestures** to make the experience interactive.



DO PROVIDE A COMMUNICATION RICH ENVIRONMENT

- Surround your babies with **verbal and nonverbal communication cues** by labeling objects, describing events, playing music and engaging in conversations throughout the day.
- Create opportunities for **language exposure in various settings**, such as during mealtime & outdoor play.



DO RESPOND PROMPTLY & POSITELY

- **Make eye contact and get closer to their level.**
- **Respond promptly** to your baby's vocalizations, gestures, and attempts at communication.
- Use a warm and encouraging tone of voice, and **provide positive reinforcement** for their efforts to communicate, even if they're just babbling or cooing.



The Don'ts of Communication

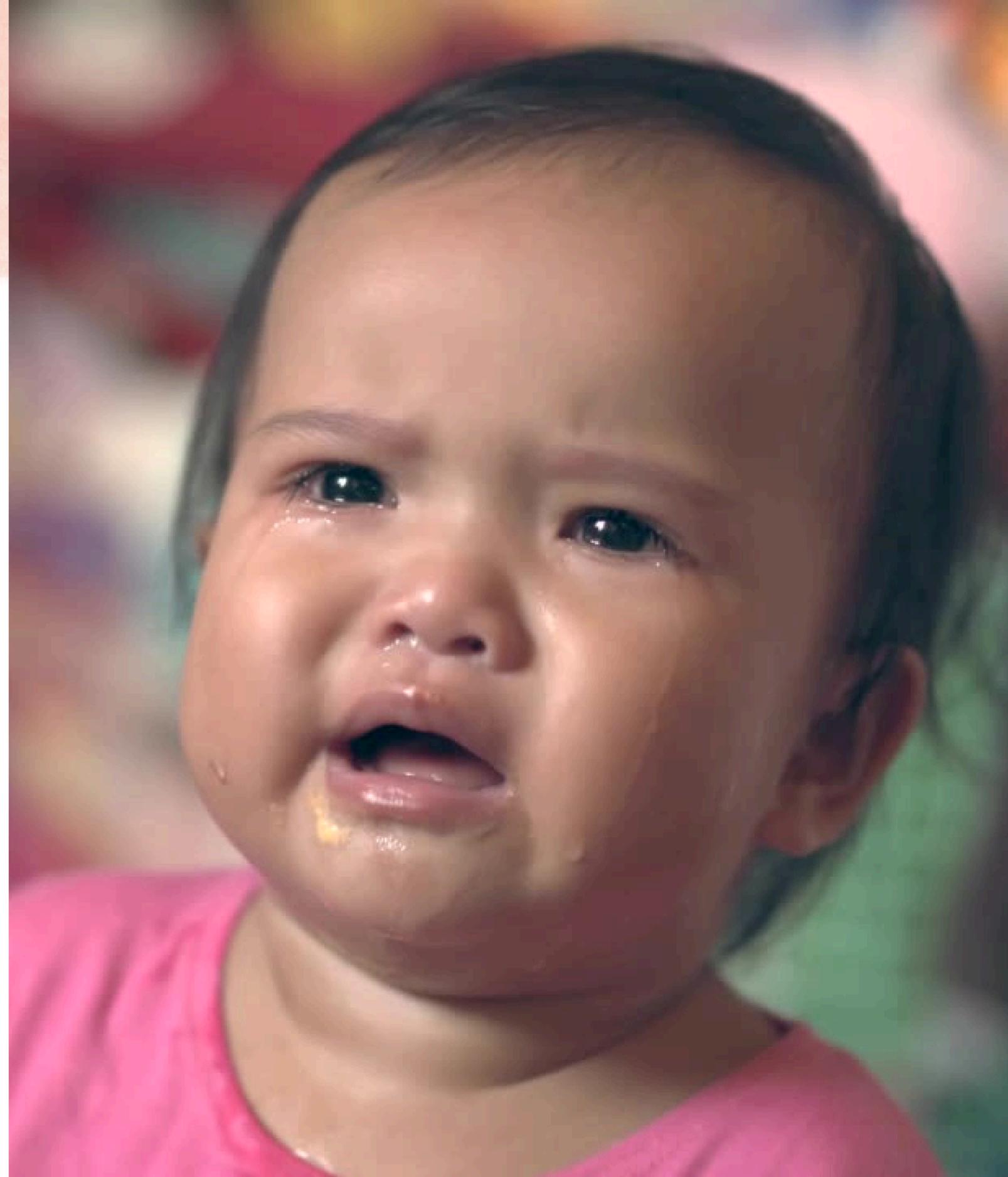
THE “DON'TS” OF LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:

- **Don't** Avoid Talking and/or Ignore Cues
- **Don't** Overuse “Baby Talk”
- **Don't** Pressure, Prompt, or Quiz
- **Don't** Be On Your Cell Phone
- **Don't** Use Negative Language



DON'T AVOID TALKING AND/OR IGNORE CUES

- Avoid being silent around your baby or **assuming that they're too young to understand.**
- Babies are constantly learning language from their environment, so it's important to **provide ample opportunities for language exposure.**



DON'T USE "BABY TALK"

- While it's natural to use simplified speech or "baby talk" when interacting with infants, **avoid exclusively/excessively using baby talk.**
- **Babies benefit from hearing a range of language models,** including grammatically correct and varied vocabulary.



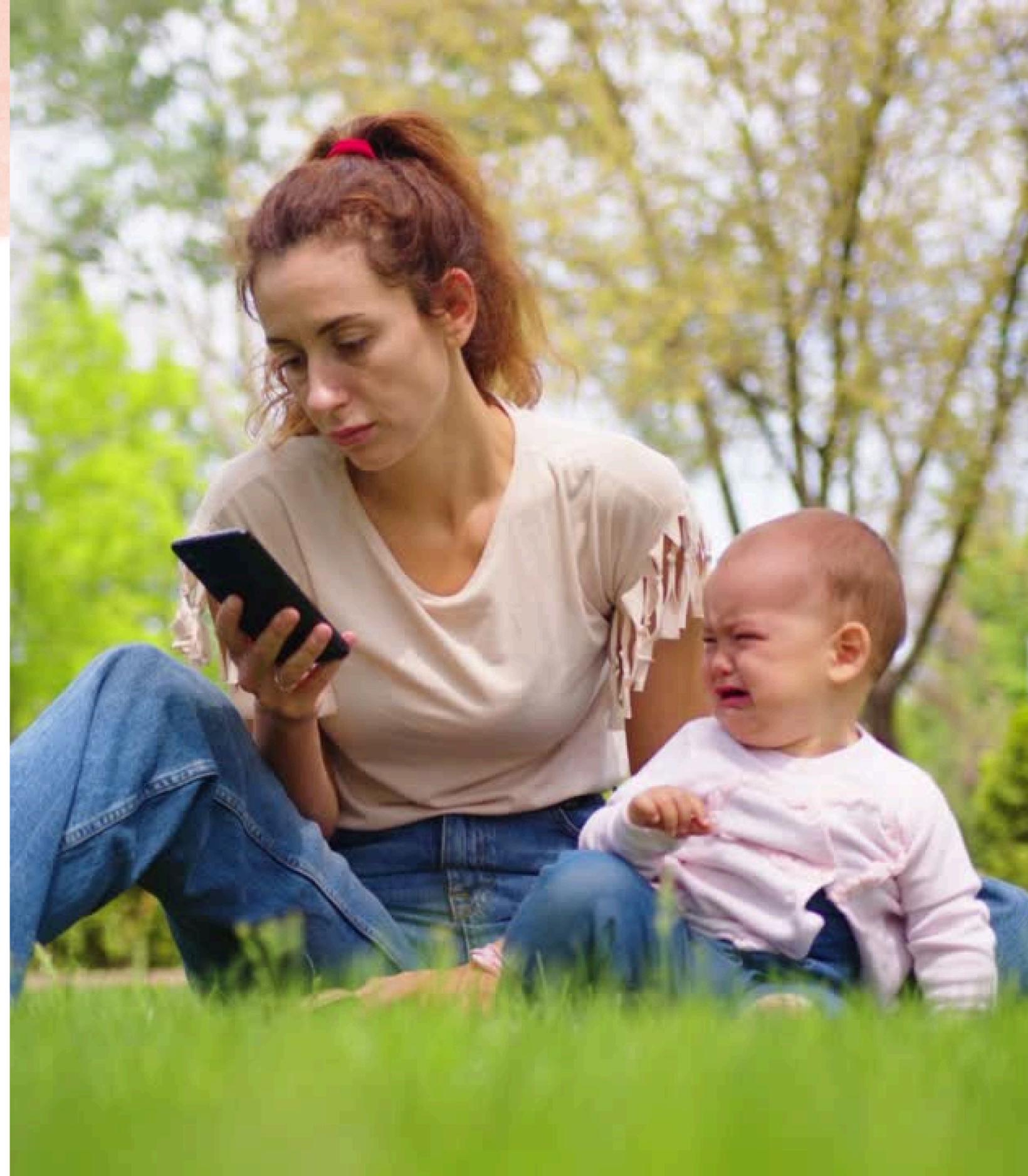
DON'T PRESSURE, PROMPT, OR QUIZ

- Pressuring babies to speak before they are ready **hinders their natural language development**, causing potential stress and disrupting their gradual learning process.
- “Quizzing” or pressuring babies about speech **can create adverse associations** with language learning, leading to frustration, reluctance to communicate, and potential long-term effects on self-esteem and confidence.



DON'T BE ON YOUR CELL PHONE

- **Limit cell phone use** when around your babies to ensure that you're fully present and engaged.
- **No screens allows for more meaningful interactions** and promotes bonding and language development.
- **Non verbal communication is the strongest type of communication!**



DON'T USE NEGATIVE LANGUAGE

- Be mindful of using negative language or criticism - Including **the language you use about them (babies) and the language you use about your peers.**
- If there's a concern or problem, **step out of the room/classroom.**



THE “DO’S” OF COMMUNICATION:

- **Do Model & Describe:** Shows your child how to communicate
- **Do Extend:** Add 1-2 words to what your child says
- **Do Wait:** Waiting gives your child an opportunity to talk
- **Do Respond:** Acknowledge, make eye contact, and get on their level, supporting connection and future conversations
- **Do Repeat:** Repeating confirms you heard your child and validates their communication
- **Do Revisit:** Read the same books and sing the same songs over and over again
- **Do Share:** Talk about yourself to connect & build reciprocity

THE “DON'TS” OF COMMUNICATION:

- **Don't Ask for Labels:** Don't ask “what is this?” repeatedly
- **Don't Say “Say”:** Try modeling instead of saying “say,” - decreases spontaneous speech
- **Don't Pressure or Over Question:** Talking can be hard and too many questions is not natural/adds pressure
- **Don't Yell, Shame, or Ignore:** Making a child feel bad about themselves will never improve an outcome.
- **Don't Be On Your Cell Phone:** Conveys disinterest to the child and correlates to a more reactive than proactive relationship.
- **Don't Speak Negatively:** Not the time or place to talk about the child, parents, other staff members, or personal matters.

Questions? Let's Hear Them!

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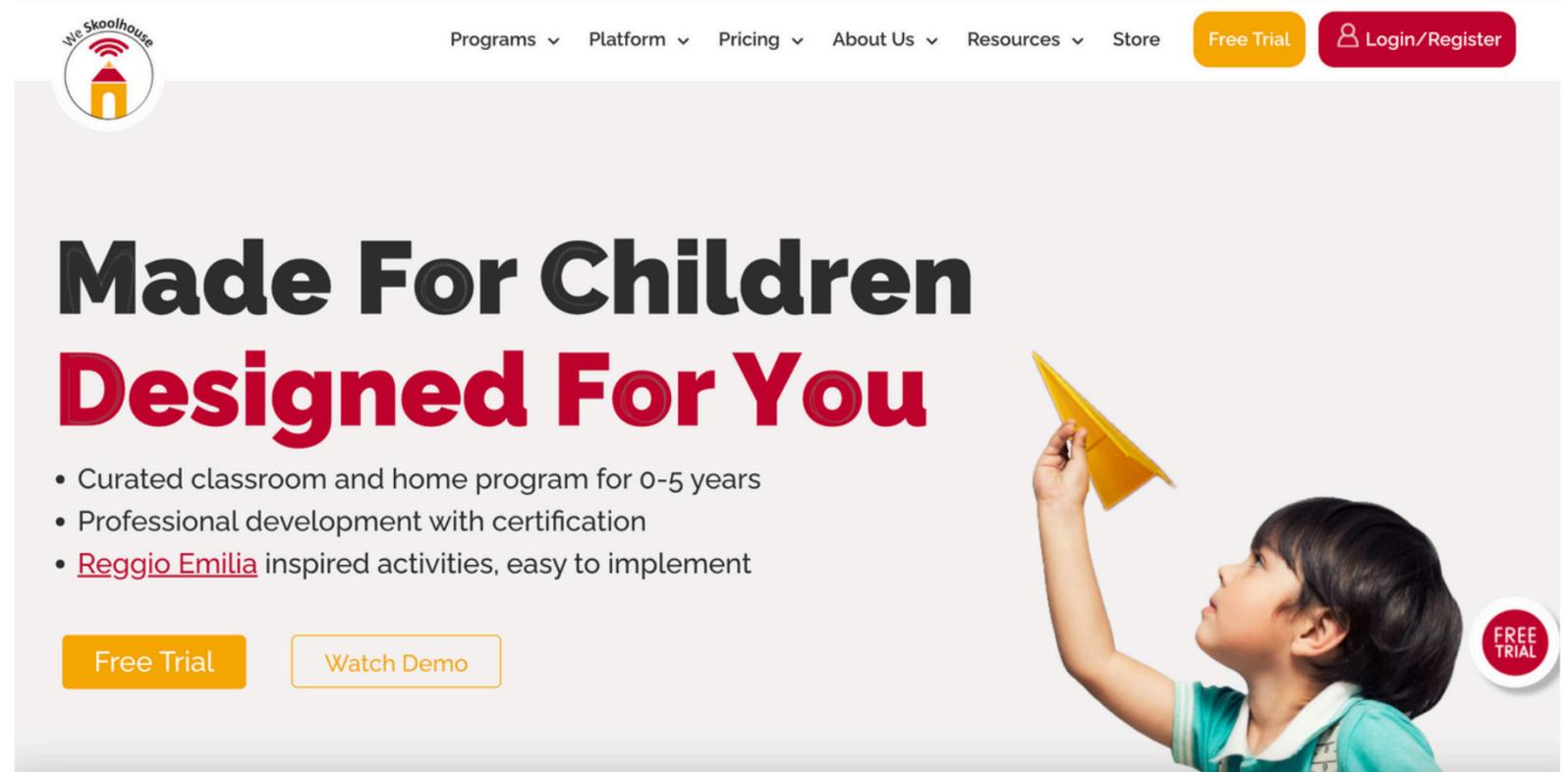
Access Suggested Daily Schedules & Curriculum:
WESKOOLHOUSE.COM



The screenshot shows the homepage of the We Skoolhouse Store. At the top left is the We Skoolhouse logo, a house with a Wi-Fi signal. To its right is the text "Welcome to the We Skoolhouse Store". Below this is a navigation menu with links for Home, Learning Institute, Units of Investigation, Curriculum, and We Skoolhouse, along with a shopping cart icon showing 2 items. The main content area features three columns of featured products:

- Learning Institute:** Includes "Early Childhood Professional Development with Certification", "Practical tools for the classroom", and "Pause and play training sessions at your own convenience".
- Units of Investigation:** Includes "Hands-on activities exploring water, light, S.T.E.A.M., literacy, and more!", "Reggio Emilia inspired to foster inquiry, critical, and creative thinking", and "Easy to download and implement".
- Curriculum:** Includes "Suggested daily and monthly schedules to guide each day in the classroom or at home", "Reggio Emilia inspired activities and provocations", and "Home and Classroom set up guide".

Each product column has a "Buy Now" button at the bottom.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the We Skoolhouse website. At the top left is the We Skoolhouse logo. To its right is a navigation menu with links for Programs, Platform, Pricing, About Us, Resources, and Store. Further right are buttons for "Free Trial" and "Login/Register". The main content area features a large headline: "Made For Children Designed For You". Below the headline is a list of features:

- Curated classroom and home program for 0-5 years
- Professional development with certification
- Reggio Emilia inspired activities, easy to implement

At the bottom of the main content area are buttons for "Free Trial" and "Watch Demo". On the right side of the main content area is an image of a young child holding a yellow paper airplane, with a "FREE TRIAL" badge overlaid on the image.

Follow us on our socials:





WE SKOOLHOUSE

Made for children. Designed for you.

We Skoolhouse virtually supports early learning and development of children from birth to five years, in the classroom or at home.

Our Mission is to ensure worldwide access to high quality education and holistic care for all children.

Our Curriculum A progressive approach Inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy that lays the foundation for lifelong learning, empowering children to thrive in the 21st century.

Platform Features:

- **Suggested Daily Schedules** to structure & maintain routine.
- **Monthly Framework & Units of Investigation** such as water, light, clay ,etc. that target all domains of development through hands-on exploration.
- **Additional Activities & Resources** such as STEAM, yoga, & music, as well as access to ongoing webinars, articles, and virtual consultations with early childhood specialists.

Visit weskoollhouse.com

Check out the **We Skoolhouse Store**

Home Learning Institute Activities Guides Curriculum We Skoolhouse

Learning Institute

- Early Childhood Professional Development with Certification.
- Practical tools for the classroom.
- Pause and play training sessions at your own convenience.

[Buy Now](#)

Activities

- Hands-on activities exploring water, light, S.T.E.A.M., literacy, and more!
- **Reggio Emilia** inspired to foster inquiry, critical, and creative thinking.
- Easy to download and implement.

[Buy Now](#)

Curriculum

- Suggested daily and monthly schedules to guide each day in the classroom or at home.
- **Reggio Emilia** inspired activities and provocations.
- Home and Classroom set up guide.

[Buy Now](#)

Store Features:

- **Professional Development with Certification**
- **“A La Carte” Activities** (STEAM, Literacy, Water, & more!)
- **Guides** for teacher & parents (setting up learning space, etc.)

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