

## Project Introduction to Connecting with Infants

**Connecting with Infants** is a comprehensive curriculum for infants from birth through eighteen months. The curriculum was developed through a contract with the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education.

The curriculum focuses on

- Responsive care and positive relationships between caregivers and infants
- An environment that is nurturing, safe, healthy and inviting for infants
- Positive relationships with families

The curriculum reflects the *Arkansas Child Development and Early Learning Standards: Birth through 60 Months*, adopted by the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission in April 2016, specifically in these domains of development and learning:

- Social and Emotional Development
- Cognitive Development
- Physical Development and Health
- Language Development
- Emergent Literacy

The curriculum also builds the foundation for these domains of development and learning

- Mathematical Thinking
- Science and Technology
- Social Studies
- Creativity and Aesthetics

Two early childhood educators, Dot Brown and Beverly C. Wright, are the developers of **Connecting with Infants**. At the beginning of the development of the curriculum, Beverly was an adjunct instructor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She is currently retired. Dot Brown is President of Early Childhood Services, Inc. Shelli Henehan, Ed.D., Associate Professor/Coordinator of Assessment, UAFS School of Education, College of STEM, supervises the project. Dot, Beverly and Shelli served on the committee that developed the *Arkansas Child Development and Early Learning Standards: Birth through 60 Months*.

In order to stay focused on best practice, the developers of **Connecting with Infants** frequently referred to two publications: *The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers & Twos*, Second Edition, and *Developmentally Appropriate Practice: Focus on Infants and Toddlers*. Both of these publications have a strong research base.

While the development of **Connecting with Infants** has definitely been a challenge, it has also been fun. Now you are invited to use the curriculum to connect with your infants!