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An investigation into the role of Early Years Educators in connecting with babies (birth-18months). What are the key factors that enrich quality interactions between adults and babies?

The purpose of the project is to investigate the role of Early Childhood Educators in connecting with babies (birth-18 months), with a view to determining the key factors that enrich quality interactions between adults and babies. Tronick (2005) explores the relationship between the failure to achieve connectedness and the poor mental and physical health of babies. Zeedyk (2011) identifies the importance of play in developing connectedness between babies and adults. This project will explore the importance of connectedness through quality interactions. The literature review will identify the philosophy and current discourse concerning play, connectedness and the role of the 'key' educator (Elfer, Goldschmied and Selleck, 2012) in supporting a baby's learning. Interviews and questionnaires will be the main methods the data collection. The data will be analysed with a view to identifying the link between current practice, the use of Aistear: The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework (NCCA,2009) and national and international theoretical perspectives. The project will conclude with suggestions and recommendations for the enhancement of practice.