



# Beyond Bubbles and Blocks:

## Tips for MA EI Home Visitors



### Did you know?

There's a popular free app on ZERO TO THREE's (ZTT) website that staff and families may like. Let's Play! Is a free parenting app with fun activities, organized by age and routine, for parents to use to support their young child's early learning. You can search activities by age, tag favorites, and share activities via social media. All of the activities reflect children's typical skills at each age and are designed to support development in the context of play and family routines.

[www.zerotothree.org/resources/380-let-s-play-free-parenting-app](http://www.zerotothree.org/resources/380-let-s-play-free-parenting-app)

*Resilience is evident when a child's health and development are tipped in the positive direction, even when a heavy load of factors is stacked on the negative side. Understanding all of the influences that might tip the scale in the positive direction is critical to devising more effective strategies for promoting healthy development in the face of significant disadvantage."*

*Center for the Developing Child*

### Tips and Techniques...

We have been asked why we are making the shift to PIWI and how can the PIWI philosophy support those families we work with that may be struggling with basic needs and adversity. The focus on improving social emotional skills in all young children is important and even more critical with children faced with these added challenges. We know that when children have one supportive relationship with a parent or caregiver they develop capacities that will make

them more resilient and better able to respond to adversity.

This is going to help them better cope with life challenges physically and mentally. (The Center for the Developing Child)

Check out these two videos for even better understanding...

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urU-a\\_FsS5Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urU-a_FsS5Y)

<http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/serve-return-interaction-shapes-brain-circuitry/>

### Evaluation/ Assessment tip



We know that we need functional assessment and evaluation to get an accurate picture of the child but how can we do functional assessment when first meeting a family?

Think about your initial contacts with families and the questions that you are asking. Are there ways to make these questions more open ended? Would different questions to help gain a better understanding about routines and priorities? How are you making sure that the answers to these questions are getting to the appropriate people?

How are you using and capitalizing on your opportunities to observe the child and family? Are you making sure your bias is in check? Have you thought about active listening and ways you are practicing active listening?

All of these things may help to better engage in functional assessment to gain more insight into the child and families life while building a relationship.

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