

# Relationship and Reflection: The Heart and Mind of ALL Practice

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## Keynote Address

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Peering closely at an encounter between a young baby and his loving partner enables us to gather certain human principles. Based on observing them, I will make these overall points

- In order to thrive, all human beings need *responsive* relationships throughout life. That is, in order to grow and learn, what we needed when we were little, we need today.
- Young and old, people learn deeply by parallel process, so how we are treated and feel in a relationship affects how we are able to be with others.

Therefore, in order to do the best that we can do for very small children and their families, all human service organizations, and most especially those serving very young children and their families from earliest pregnancy through the first five years of life, need to become and be reflective and relationship-based.

- The principles we'll develop about babies and their partners will be applied to work with parents, with professionals and with organizations.
- Relationship and reflection within and across disciplines *are* the heart and mind of best practice.