Suggested Presentation Timeline:
Learning and Cognitive Development Overview

This lesson outline is designed to be a teaching tool for early learning professionals who teach this information in a wide variety of settings. Therefore, please use the outline below as a guide and modify it as necessary to meet the needs of your audience and schedule.

Minutes 0 - 10   Welcome and Introductions
- Begin your presentation or workshop by creating a comfortable environment.
- Introduce yourself to your group / audience and orient them to the environment (restrooms, important announcements).

Minutes 10 - 40   Presentation of Topic
Provide your group with an <u>overview</u> of the topic you will be presenting. This brings all the participants together quickly as well as to engage the group in the learning. Here are some options for how to do this:

1. Tell a story that engages the audience.

   For years, researchers have been studying how infants, toddlers, and preschoolers think and learn. Questions such as "Are there critical windows for learning, and if so, when?" and "What are the most important factors in getting children to learn?" have been the subject of discussion and debate. What questions do you have or have parents asked you about learning and/or cognitive development?

2. Provide a definition of the topic / terms that are being discussed.

   Definition of Cognitive Development: Cognition or cognitive development refers to the mental process by which knowledge is acquired, including aspects such as perception, intuition, awareness, reasoning, and judgment.

3. Some educators find it helpful to begin with a general question. For example:

   - When you think of the word learning, what ideas come to mind?

   - What do you already know about cognitive development in young children?

4. Provide an overview that introduces your audience to the research-based information about the topic.

   The Learning and Cognitive Development Pillar is designed to explore how children think and learn. The ways in which children learn are truly limitless, but this pillar begins by focusing on the three areas in particular: Imitation, Exploration, and Play.

Review the <u>goals</u> of what you intend to teach, describe what <u>tools/resources</u> they can expect to gain by attending the event, and present the Parenting Counts Program <u>Curriculum.</u>

Minutes 40 - 50   Applied Learning Activity
- Most audiences are ready for a change in activity after 20-30 minutes of lecture. Consider the composition of your group and decide what type of activity best meets their needs.
- Some educators choose to have participants work in pairs to maximize comfort with the topic, others opt for a group discussion to allow a variety of opinions to be heard and validated.
- Parenting Counts offers multiple video options that can be used during this time to encourage discussion or to continue the learning experience.

Minutes 50 - 60   Closure and Evaluation
- Closure: Be sure to recap the key messages of the presentation as well as provide tools that incorporate the learning into parenting practices.
- Evaluation: Please distribute an evaluation form as part of your presentation. It is important to give participants an opportunity to comment on the presentation as well as to provide you with an assessment of their learning.

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