

Age	Child's Need	Parent's Tasks	Abusive Parenting	Effect of Abuse	Healing Care
0-6 mos.  Being Stage	Be, Live! Belong Trust Need to know they can communicate needs	Provide physical care Delight in child Respond to cries Touch, hold, stimulate Protect & nurture Be consistent, predictable	Being Absent Ignoring cries, needs Hovering, "smothering" Spanking, pinching, screaming Withholding child support	Excessive crying Lack of self-worth Sleep disturbances Self-destructive behaviors Lack of facial expressions Eating disorders surfacing later	Maintain consistent care schedule Be more responsive Give unconditional nurturing Give lots of physical affection Identify & name needs
6-18 mos.  Doing Stage	Do Explore sensations Try/check it out Explore environment Separate self from "other"	Offer unconditional love Baby-proof house Provide safe toys Care for self Give many "yeses" Interact & play with child	Confining child to crib Force feeding Beginning toilet training Expecting too much Failing to supervise Instilling fear, intimidation Yelling, screaming	Anxiety, inconsolable crying Withdrawal Fear of adults/authority Fear of new places Lack of mobility Limited language development School phobia surfacing later	Have realistic expectations Use sensory awareness play Distinguish feelings (mad/sad/scared) Insist on checking out fears Give consistent encouragement
18 mos. - 3 yrs.  Thinking Stage	Separate from parent Say "no!" Think Learn to choose Speak out	Be the "grown-up" Provide limited choices Honor the need to say "no" Be in charge of the rules Demonstrate problem-solving Begin toilet training	Being inconsistent Expecting too much Using physical punishment, spanking Failing to set limits Shaming child Using child to obtain information about other parent	Demanding behavior Out-of-control behavior—hitting, biting, frequent tantrums Being over-adaptive to adults/people-pleasing Passivity Manipulative behavior Addictive disorders surfacing later	Distinguish angry feelings Teach non-violent expression of anger Use logical consequences Teach child to think of others Insist on verbal requests
4-6 yrs.  Identity & Power Stage	Separate real from pretend Learn differences between feelings, thoughts, & behavior Take action, initiate Develop sexual identity Solve problems	Allow child to make some choices Teach respect of own & opposite sex Teach how to get affection Separate child's reality from child's fantasy Read to & talk with child	Scaring/teasing to control Punishing for masturbation or sexual exploration Blaming child for parents' feelings "Sexualizing" child Using violence toward other parent	Sexual shame Excessive fears Extreme separation anxiety, bedwetting, nightmares Being over-adaptive/people-pleasing Adopting victim or perpetrator status Aggression	Permit child to ask for needs to be met Permit physical affection Control mythical/fairy-tale thinking Discuss fears Offer comfort & assurance