

| 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 |