CHILDHOOD IS MESSY:
Using Touchpoints Principles in Libraries
The Presenters

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Know:
One thing I already know about child development and parenting is...

Wonder:
One thing I wonder about child development and parenting is...
The Touchpoints Approach

Is a way of engaging families by:

- Understanding child development,
- Supporting relationships
Child Development

Fictional path

Actual path
Developmental Agenda

Knowledge  ➔  Skill  ➔  Judgement
We’re born to develop within caring relationships...
To raise their children, parents need...

- To perceive themselves as competent
- To feel empowered to make a difference in their children’s lives
- To know about their pasts (cultural identity)
- To feel connected to a web of supportive relationships (neighborhood, community)
- To be emotionally available in the present, and
- To dare to envision their child’s future (hope).
Assumptions:
strength-based attitudes

Guiding Principles:
relational strategies
Parent Assumptions

- The parent is the expert of his/her child
- All parents have strengths
- All parents want to do well by their child
- All parents have something critical to share at each developmental stage
- All parents have ambivalent feelings
- Parenting is a process built on trial and error
Guiding Principles

- Recognize what you bring to the interaction
- Look for opportunities to support mastery
- Use the behavior of the child as your language
- Value disorganization
- Focus on the parent-child relationship
- Value and understand the relationship between you and the parent
- Be willing to discuss matters that go beyond your traditional role
- Value passion wherever you find it
What might this mean for libraries?
Stories from the Field
Stories from the Field
LEARNED:
One thing I learned about child development and parenting is...

DO:
One thing I’ll try to do to be more strengths-based and family-centric is...

WONDER:
One thing I still wonder about childhood and parenting is...
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