**Ep. 48 Interview with Paula Stewart**

In this episode, Early and Elementary Learning Specialists Sam Statler and Kerri Templeton are joined by Paula Stewart. Paula is an Infant Toddler Specialist that is also a certified Infant/Toddler Care trainer. Paula is endorsed through the West Virginia Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association. She has many years of experience working with little ones herself and offers training and coaching to childcare providers here in the state of West Virginia.

Paula brings light to the importance of a toddler’s social and emotional well-being. She shares several strategies a caregiver could use during their daily routine to help foster the learning taking place such as: self- and parallel talk, offering infants choices when they are making decisions, and not interrupting their own thinking and problem solving while they are trying to complete a task.

**What to Listen for:**

* What are some strategies that are beneficial to build thinking skills with infants?
* Why is it important to build thinking skills with young learners?
* How do you tend to help develop self-confidence in infants?
* What are some ways you can promote problem solving skills with infants?

**Resources:**

*Developing school readiness skills from 0-12 months*. ZERO TO THREE. (n.d.). Retrieved November 23, 2021, from https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/series/developing-school-readiness-skills-from-0-12-months.

Dehaene-Lambertz, Ghislaine, et al. “Nature and Nurture in Language Acquisition: Anatomical and Functional Brain-Imaging Studies in Infants.” Trends in Neurosciences, vol. 29, no. 7, July 2006, pp. 367-373.

Moon C., Cooper R. P., Fifer W. P. (1993). Two-day-olds prefer their native language. *Infant*  *Behav. Dev.* 16 495–500. 10.1016/0163-6383(93)80007-U

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