
- This takes time and effort, but the more you give, the more you receive, if the relationship is mutual.

KEY CONCEPTS

■ **A new baby is a new start on love.**

- Through the baby, parents will grow emotionally and can redefine aspects of their other relationships [see *Conceptual Overview #2*].

- Use topic animal artwork to open a discussion with parents regarding how love will affect their baby.
- Hand out “What Love Means to Me.”

Have each parent write a statement in each heart. Then discuss with parents how their definitions of love will affect their babies.

Discuss: “Why is love important for babies?”

- It’s a basic need.
- It gives a baby security and confidence.
- It contributes to a baby’s resiliency.
- It affects growth and development.
- It opens the way for mastery and self-esteem.

■ **Babies learn love gradually. This understanding develops in overlapping layers. For babies, these layers are:**

- Trust
- Understanding
- Shared Positive Emotions
- *Interdependence*
- Respect
- Regulation
- Tolerance [see *Conceptual Overview #4* and *#5*].

- Hand out “Layers of Love for Baby.” With parents, cut out pictures of children and parents from magazines to illustrate the Layers of Love. Show different ages to illustrate how children continue to learn about love as they grow.

Paste the pictures on a poster board or individual sheets of paper and identify which layer of love each picture illustrates.

- Use “Layers of Love for Baby Grow as Baby Grows” as a guide [see pg. 182].
Have parents write baby quotes for each picture in a word bubble to describe the Layers of Love. For example, write “Dad is there for me.” in a word bubble for a picture of a dad feeding a baby.

■ **Learning specific parenting techniques will help parenting go more smoothly** [see *Conceptual Overview #3*].

- Hand out “Stringing Beads of Pride” [see pg. 183] and “Practicing Positive Parenting Techniques” [see pg. 184].