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### **Erikson Institute**

A Framework for Attunement for Home Visitors and Preschool Teachers ND Early Childhood Conference 4/11/25

Michelle Ragan

Maren Stokka

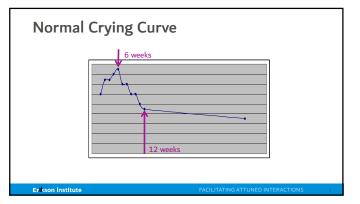
**CREA Early Intervention** 

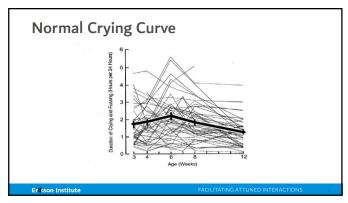
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# Our Time Together A Tool for Attunement ARC of Engagement and the Arc on the Fly Exilson Institute A Tool for Attunement Collaborative Exploration Capacity Building FACILITATING ATTUNED INTERACTIONS







It's not the amount of crying that matters, it's how the parent experiences it.



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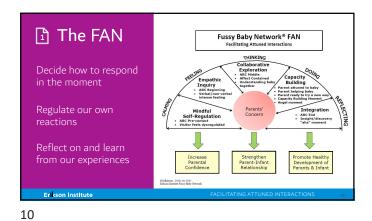
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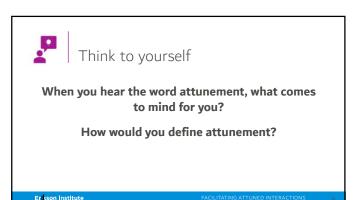
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### Holding the Caregiver's Experience 0 SHO 0 Stay longer in the hard places See the baby they see Be where they are 3 9 0 Listen Help them find Have a model their way that holds you

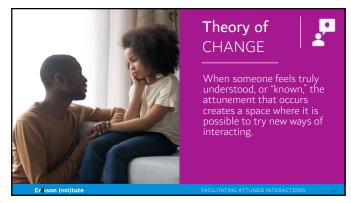
















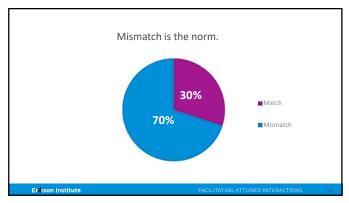


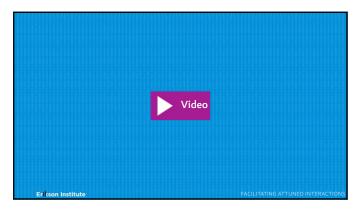
### Match/Mismatch

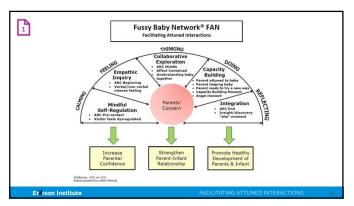
What percentage of time do you think the most "in sync" caregiver/infant relationship is attuned?

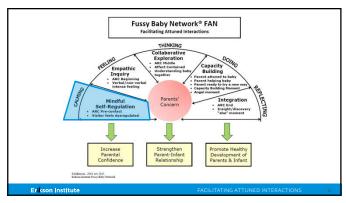
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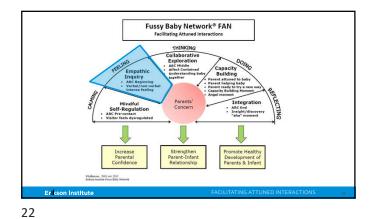
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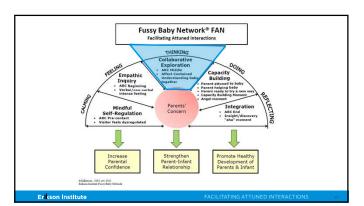


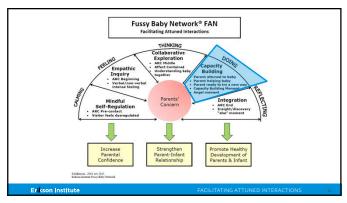


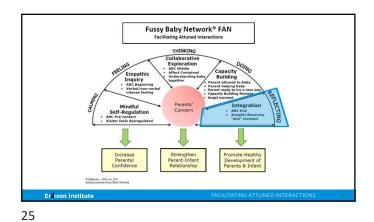








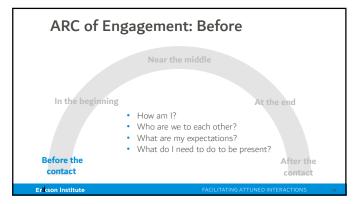






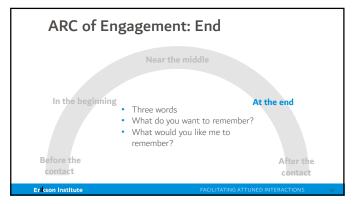


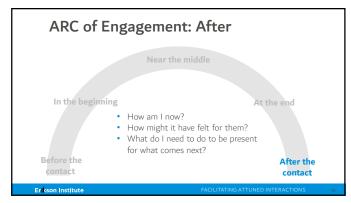












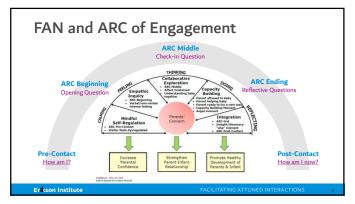
# ARC Adaptations Near the middle Is there something else you want to focus on today? What do you want to make sure we talk about today? What do you want to make sure we talk about today? What has morn time been like for you? What has morn time been for you since last time? At the end What stood out most from our visit today?

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## Listen and validate Thank you for telling me. That must be really challenging. Before the contact Can I commit to listening? If Yes: I have a moment! What's going on? If No: That sounds important. Can I call you? Express Institute Assess and inform Offer what you can in the moment Or set time for later Refrain from offering a rushed solution Closing the circle Thank you again for telling me. If there's anything else you need, let me know. Or: I look forward to talking with you more about this







The FAN: A Grou	unding Framewo	ork for Trauma-
Informed Practic		
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ARC of Engagement	Mindful Self-Regulation	Empathic Inquiry
Predictable, consistent structure promotes safety. Opportunity to check biases and assumptions	Allows practitioners to acknowledge their own responses and respond with acceptance and balance	Provides space to acknowledge feelings and experiences
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Capacity Building & Integration	Attunement	Collaborative Exploration
Builds skills with opportunities for reflection	Takes a non-judgmental, respectful, empathic stance	Helps parents and caregivers sort out what makes sense to them
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### **FAN Training Benefits**



- More able to see from the parent/caregivers' or co-workers' perspective
- Are more collaborative;
- Move from "fixing" to "partnering"
- Calmer and more able to think clearly in stressful interactions
- Show increased reflective capacity and decreased burnout

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### **FAN Training Benefits:** Supervisors

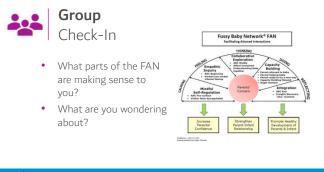


- More aware of themselves and others
- Talk less and listen more
- Ask more questions in supervision
- More able to build reflection in their staff

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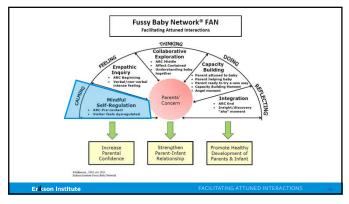
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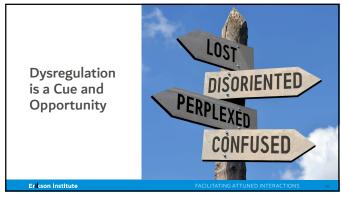
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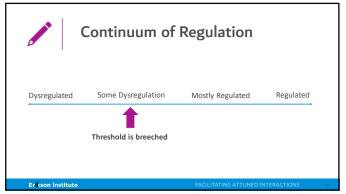
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### MSR Strategies: Breathing



- Three Conscious Breaths
- Even Breathing
- Double Breath
- Square Breathing
- Breathing to Calm
- Breathing to Activate

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### MSR Strategies: Grounding



- Feet on Floor
- The Grounding Chair
- Mindful Walking
- 5-4-3-2-1 Senses (see, feel, hear, smell, taste)

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### MSR Strategies: Self-Talk



- "Just keep listening"
- "I can see the light at the end of the concern"
- "By listening, I am partnering"
- "I am creating a safe space for this person to take risks"
- "If I listen, more will be revealed.
- "I've got this."

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### MSR Strategies: Imagery



- Thinking about an image or idea that helps us feel calm, equipped and connected
- Wheat field flexible, open, moving
- Shifting into low gear
- Clear bubble close but connected
- Tree—deep roots to ground; swaying branches for flexibility

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### ARC of Engagement: Precontact MSR

Near the middle

In the beginning

At the end

- How am I?
  - Who are we to each other?
  - What are my expectations?
  - What do I need to do to be present?

Before the contact

After the contact

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In the beginning

Near the middle

Near the middle

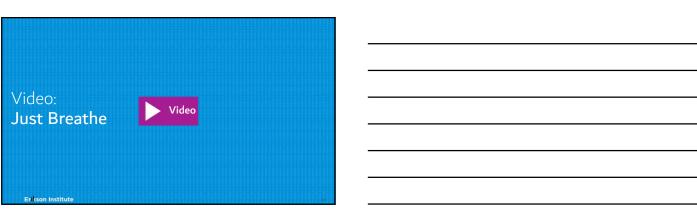
Near the middle

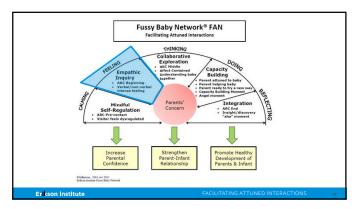
How am I now?

How might it have felt for them?

What do I need to do to be present for what comes next?

After the contact





	we know when a caregiver or co-v lings?	-	
	Showing Feelings	Unusual Mood	
	Absence of Feelings	Using Feeling Words	
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### **Empathic Inquiry**Challenging Our Assumptions



"I have come to realize that asking, accepting, and validating are the most profound forms of doing."

-Vincent Felitti, Founder of the ACES Study

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### **Empathic Inquiry**











Holding

Validating

Exploring

Bridging

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### El Strategy: Holding



- Let the story be told
- Listen with acceptance
- Attune without acting
- Use few words: "Whew" "Wow" "Ohhh"

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### El Strategy: Validating



### Validating ≠ Agreeing

- "That must have been so hard"
- "What an exhausting time"
- "I can hear this was overwhelming"
- "It's understandable how upset you were"
- "How wonderful to hear!

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### El Strategy: Validating



- The power of pause
- Be lean of speech
- Use simple words and let them sink in

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### **El Strategy:** Exploring Feelings



- Can you tell me more about what that was like for you?
- You said you were afraid to go back to school. Could you say a little more?
- I'm wondering how you felt when they were clinging to you and wouldn't stop crying.

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### El Strategy: Bridging Feelings



 Putting feelings somewhere safe, knowing we can and will revisit them

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### **Bridging Feelings:** When to Use It



other's experience

If you have spent time really hearing and validating the

If you feel the person is "stuck" in the same feelings, repeating stories without much affect



If the feelings or emotional intensity needs more help than you can provide



If the feelings are lessening

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### El Strategy: Bridging Feelings

### Feeling:

I hear how hard this has been and how much you want this to change.

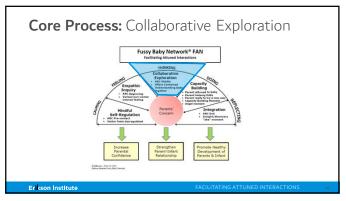


Invitation to Think:

I'm wondering if we're to the place where we might be able to think together about what would help?

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How do we know when a parent/caregiver is ready for collaborative exploration?

Caregiver is calm. May make and/or hold eye contact with you

Parent/caregiver wants to figure something out to figure something out

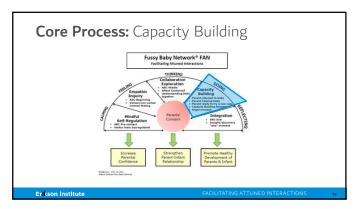
Practitioner wants to understand the child that the parent/caregiver sees

# Collaborative Exploration Requires: Belief in the parent/caregiver Pausing before doing Openness and curiosity Thinking together without pressure to change or do it your way Occupants Occupants Instead of trying to fix it, I now know that I need to stay with them Supervisor Giving up control is a relief Home visitor

Don't Conduct the Fix-It Train!

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Collaborative Exploration: Key Areas				
These key areas can help us UNDERSTAND before acting	Theory of Problem What do you think might be the cause?	Strategies tried What's worked? What hasn't?	Changes desired What would you like to see change?	
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Views of others What do others who are important to you think?	Readiness How ready do you feel to start?	Planning first steps  What might be a first small step?	Anticipating doing  What would it be like for you to try this new way?	
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### Information-Giving is most helpful when: Parent/caregiver asks for or needs information Parent/caregiver asks for or needs information

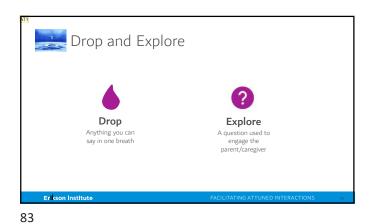
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Parent/caregiver lacks information that will help them meet their goals

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 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Drop (home visitor):} You know, it may take babies up to 15 tries with a new food before they accept it. \end{tabular}$ 

**Drop and Explore Example:** New Foods

**Explore** (home visitor): Have you heard that before?

Response (Mom): No way! I've never heard that.

Drop (home visitor): It can take some time.

**Explore** (home visitor): What's your sense about how Sofia takes to new things?



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### ATO Slide with a bit of animation

Ann Theriault, 2022-09-04T10:40:50.367

### ATO 0 There was originally animation on this slide but I wasn't sure what the intent was. Can anyone clarify?

Ann Theriault, 2022-09-04T11:25:07.888

### Explore doesn't have a brief explanation. Add one? Ann Theriault, 2022-09-05T10:25:48.668 AT1

### **Drop and Explore Example:** Preschool

**Drop (teacher):** Did you know that knowing the routine and following an adult's lead is just as important as knowing letters and numbers?

**Explore** (teacher): Have you heard that before?

**Response (parent/caregiver):** No way! I've never heard that.

**Drop** (teacher): Have you noticed that he hangs his coat up now and goes right to the books when you drop him off? He's also been adding new words every day it seems?

**Explore** (teacher): What's your sense about how Joey is learning new things?



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### Capacity Building Moment



When the child is doing the thing that the parent/caregiver has been struggling with or is concerned about and you are there.

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### **Capacity Building Moment:**



MSR: "Take a moment to ground yourself."

Acknowledge "This is what you were telling me about."

Affirm

"Feel free to do what you need to do."

Offer
"I'm here for you."

### **Angel Moments**



### The "love looks"

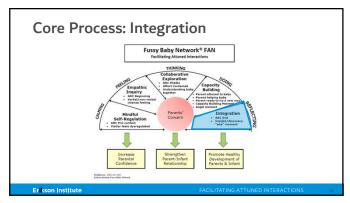
- Pause and protect
- Glow with them
- Reflect the emotional tone

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### Our Time Together PART 2 PART 3 PART 1 PART 4 Integration & Putting it all together A Tool for Mindful Self-Collaborative Attunement Regulation Exploration ARC of Empathic Capacity Building Engagement Inquiry





**Integration:** "Ah-Ha" Moments

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**Integration** and the ARC of Engagement Prompting Integration We can take time at the end of the home visit or meeting to ask caregivers to reflect about their child and the meaning of the visit At the end
Three words
I'm wondering if there was
something that you would
like to remember from our
time together today? After the contact

### **Self-Compassion**

- Mismatch/Repair the 70/30 appears to be of growing importance in the training and in clinical practice
- To make a healthy repair, we may need to first repair with ourselves
- Self-compassion is one way to nurture the reparative process

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### **Self-Compassion**

- Self-compassion is compassion directed inward
- Being touched by our own suffering, generating a desire to alleviate our own suffering and treat ourselves with understanding, kindness, and concern

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### Self-Compassion "If your compassion does not include you, it is incomplete" - Guatama Buddha

### **Self-Compassion**

- First arrow comes from the outside
- Second arrow comes from within





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### Self-Compassion helps calm our body as well as our mind.

- Harsh self-criticism activates our threat system
- We are the attacker and the attacked
- Self-compassion activates our calming system.
- We are the soother and the soothed

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What do you want to remember about our time together today to use in your practice as a home visitor, therapist, or teacher?

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### Do you want more of the FAN?

- 1-day FAN for teachers
- FAN Level I for home visitors
- 2 days
- FAN Level II for home visitors
- First complete Level I
- 6 months of practice with self-reflection and coaching from us
- Day 3 wrap up and integration
   VIRTUAL IS AN OPTION!
- Stop by and chat or text us: 701.527.3966

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