



Beyond the Dinosaur Hall: Welcoming Young Children and Their Grown-Ups into Your Museum

Welcome!

The webinar will begin at 2:00 p.m. CT.

While you wait:

1. Download PDF of the webinar slides and handout under the "Handouts" tab of your control bar.
2. Confirm that your speakers are turned on and your audio is working by doing a sound check in the "Audio" tab of the control bar. Having problems? Exit and restart the webinar or switch to "phone call" for a phone number and access code to hear the audio through your telephone.

The Museum Services Program provides support, resources, and training to museums in Texas.

- Consultations
- Webinars and workshops
- Resources

www.thc.texas.gov/museum-services

On our webpage:

- Webinars
- Workshops
- Grants and Fundraising
- Helpful Resources
- Connect and Learn

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Upcoming Free Museum Services Webinar

www.thc.texas.gov/museumwebinars

See you in February 2022!

Upcoming Free Webinars from Other Orgs

www.thc.texas.gov/museumconnections

- *Care of Painted Surfaces*, October 13, 12:00 p.m. CT, CCC
- *Interpreting Slavery Using Primary Resources*, October 13, 2:00 p.m. CT, NEMA
- *Introduction to HVAC Systems*, October 14, 1:00 p.m. CT, IPI
- *Anti-Bullying*, October 21, 1:00 p.m. CT, GEMM
- *Navigating Visitor Comments Effectively*, November 3, 9:00 a.m. CT, ICSC
- *Long Term Storage for Large Functional Objects: Vehicles*, November 16, 12:00 p.m. CT, CCC
- *Reaching People Outside of Digital Spaces*, December 1, 9:00 a.m. CT, ICSC

Sarah Erdman



Welcoming Young Children Into Museums

Sarah Erdman

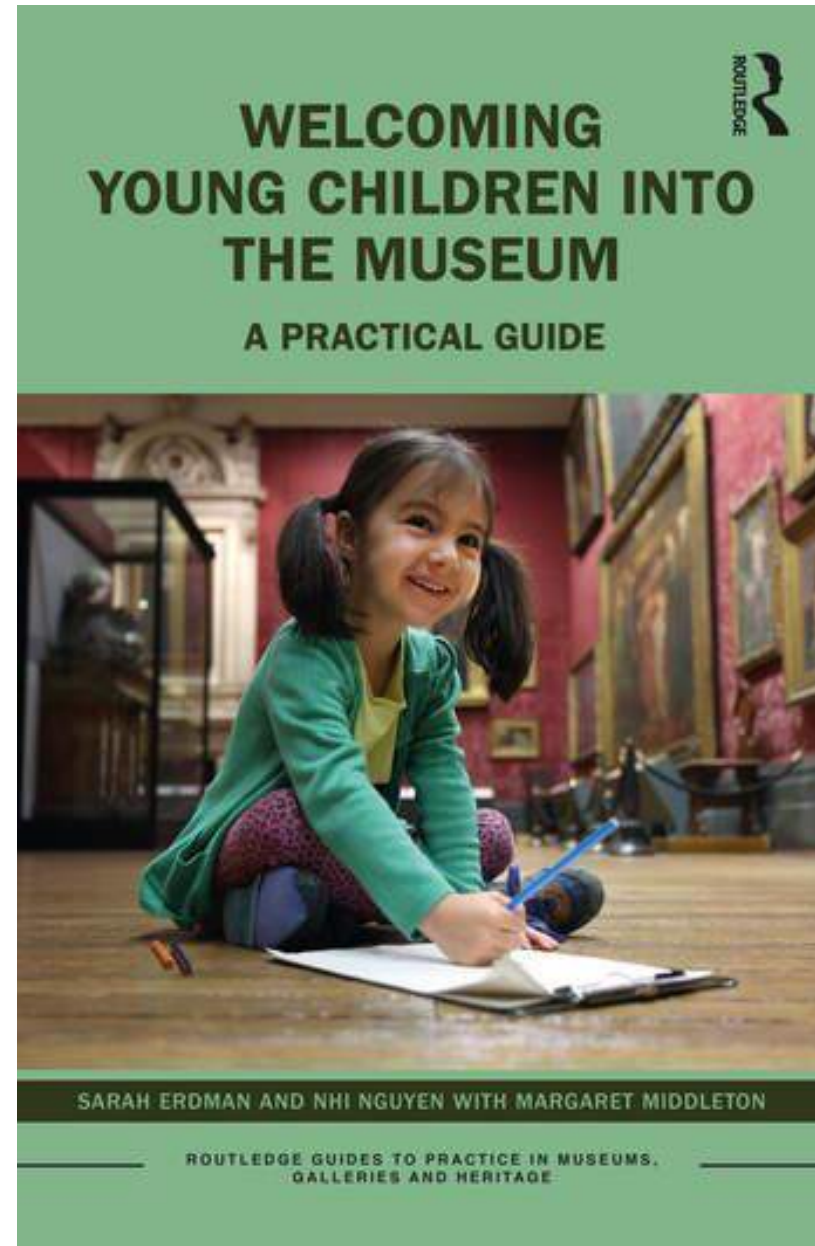
She/Her

@CabinetOfCurios

cabinetofcuriositiesva@gmail.com

Available for Pre-Order

[Welcoming Young Children into the Museum: A Practical Guide - 1st Edit \(routledge.com\)](https://www.routledge.com/Welcoming-Young-Children-into-the-Museum-A-Practical-Guide/9781138000000)

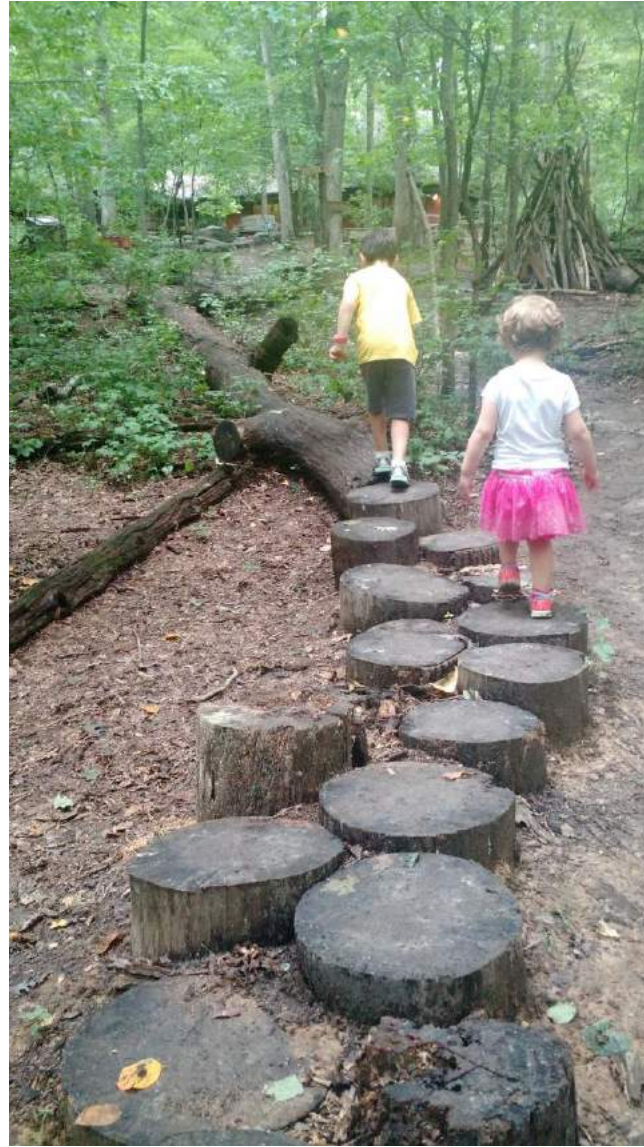


Baby's 1st Museum Visit



First Steps

- ▶ Prepare Your Staff
- ▶ Prepare Your Space
- ▶ Prepare Your Content



Prepare Your Staff

- ▶ Is Everyone On Board?
 - ▶ Visitor Services
 - ▶ Facilities Management
 - ▶ Security
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Curatorial + Exhibits
 - ▶ Upper Admin
 - ▶ Board

Family-Inclusive LANGUAGE

avoid	why?	instead
<p>“parents” “mom” “dad” “mom and dad”</p>	<p>Not everyone accompanying a child is a parent. Grandparents, step-parents, and nannies may not identify as parents.</p> <p>Not all children have a mom and dad.</p>	<p>“grownup” “adult” “caregiver”</p>
<p>“son” “daughter”</p>	<p>The children in someone's care could be grandchildren, nieces, nephews, godchildren, etc.</p> <p>You may also not want to assume the gender of a child.</p>	<p>“children”</p>
<p>“extended family”</p>	<p>This term is usually meant to include grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins but for folks of many cultures this isn't “extended” family. It's just family.</p>	<p>“family”</p>
<p>“family resemblance”</p>	<p>We're conditioned to look for similar features in family members so you may see resemblance where there is none. Many families include step-parents, adoptive parents, or parents who conceived with donated eggs or sperm.</p> <p>Inversely, don't assume that a child who doesn't look like their caregiver is adopted- many multi-racial children resemble one parent more than the other.</p>	<p>keep it to yourself</p>
<p>“members of a household”</p>	<p>Families don't always live together. For example, families with divorced parents or incarcerated parents.</p>	<p>“family members”</p>

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Do They Feel Prepared?

- Applicable laws
- Museum expectations
- Child development
- Interacting with families
- Conflict management

WHEN I SAY EVERYONE I MEAN EVERYONE

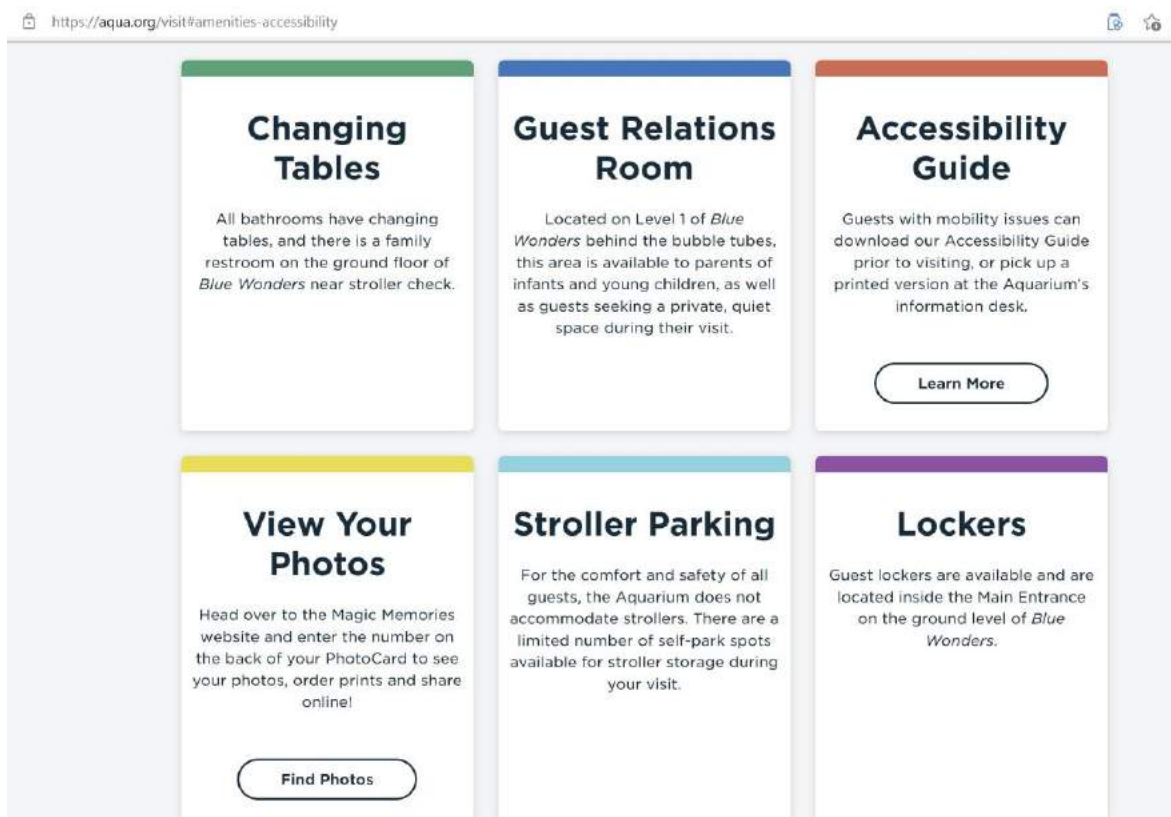
Visitors don't differentiate between front of house and back of house. If someone is coming into contact with the public they need to know the expectations

Prepare Your Space

- ▶ How do they find the information they need
- ▶ How do they get to you
- ▶ How do they move around the space

National Aquarium

Aqua.org- Visit - Plan Your Visit- Amenities and Accessibility



The screenshot shows a webpage with a grid of six cards. Each card has a colored header bar and a title. The cards are: Changing Tables (green header), Guest Relations Room (blue header), Accessibility Guide (orange header), View Your Photos (yellow header), Stroller Parking (light blue header), and Lockers (purple header). Each card contains descriptive text and a button.

https://aqua.org/visit#amenities-accessibility

Changing Tables

All bathrooms have changing tables, and there is a family restroom on the ground floor of *Blue Wonders* near stroller check.

Guest Relations Room

Located on Level 1 of *Blue Wonders* behind the bubble tubes, this area is available to parents of infants and young children, as well as guests seeking a private, quiet space during their visit.

Accessibility Guide

Guests with mobility issues can download our Accessibility Guide prior to visiting, or pick up a printed version at the Aquarium's information desk.

[Learn More](#)

View Your Photos

Head over to the Magic Memories website and enter the number on the back of your PhotoCard to see your photos, order prints and share online!

[Find Photos](#)

Stroller Parking

For the comfort and safety of all guests, the Aquarium does not accommodate strollers. There are a limited number of self-park spots available for stroller storage during your visit.

Lockers

Guest lockers are available and are located inside the Main Entrance on the ground level of *Blue Wonders*.



Prepare Your Content

- ▶ Making something accessible to children does NOT mean “dumbing it down.” You have to distill the information to its core concepts
- ▶ Children can face hard topics. To pretend otherwise is an insult to children who face these things in their everyday lives and a disservice to the ones who will be in a position to make change. What does need to happen is that it is handled in an age appropriate way with support for the adult that came with them.
- ▶ Understand how children develop and learn is important- but equally important is understanding different ways that families learn together.

Child Development

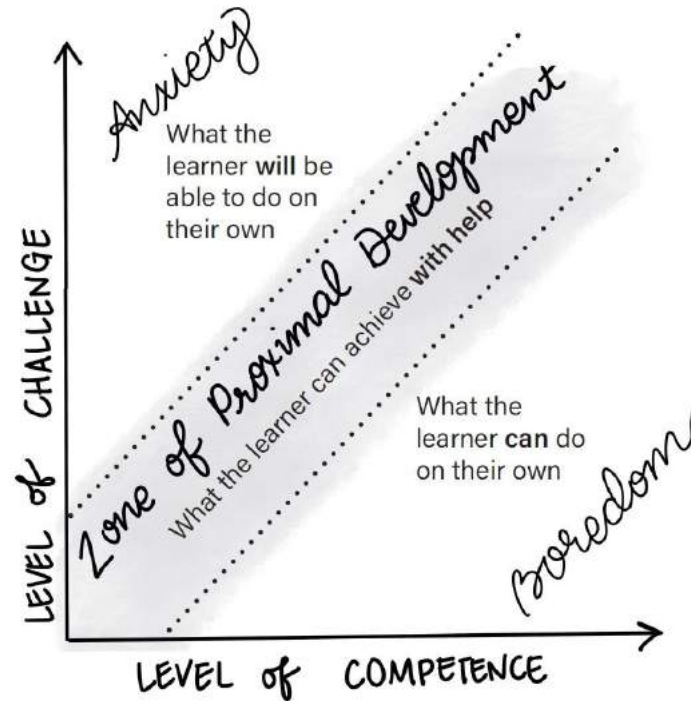
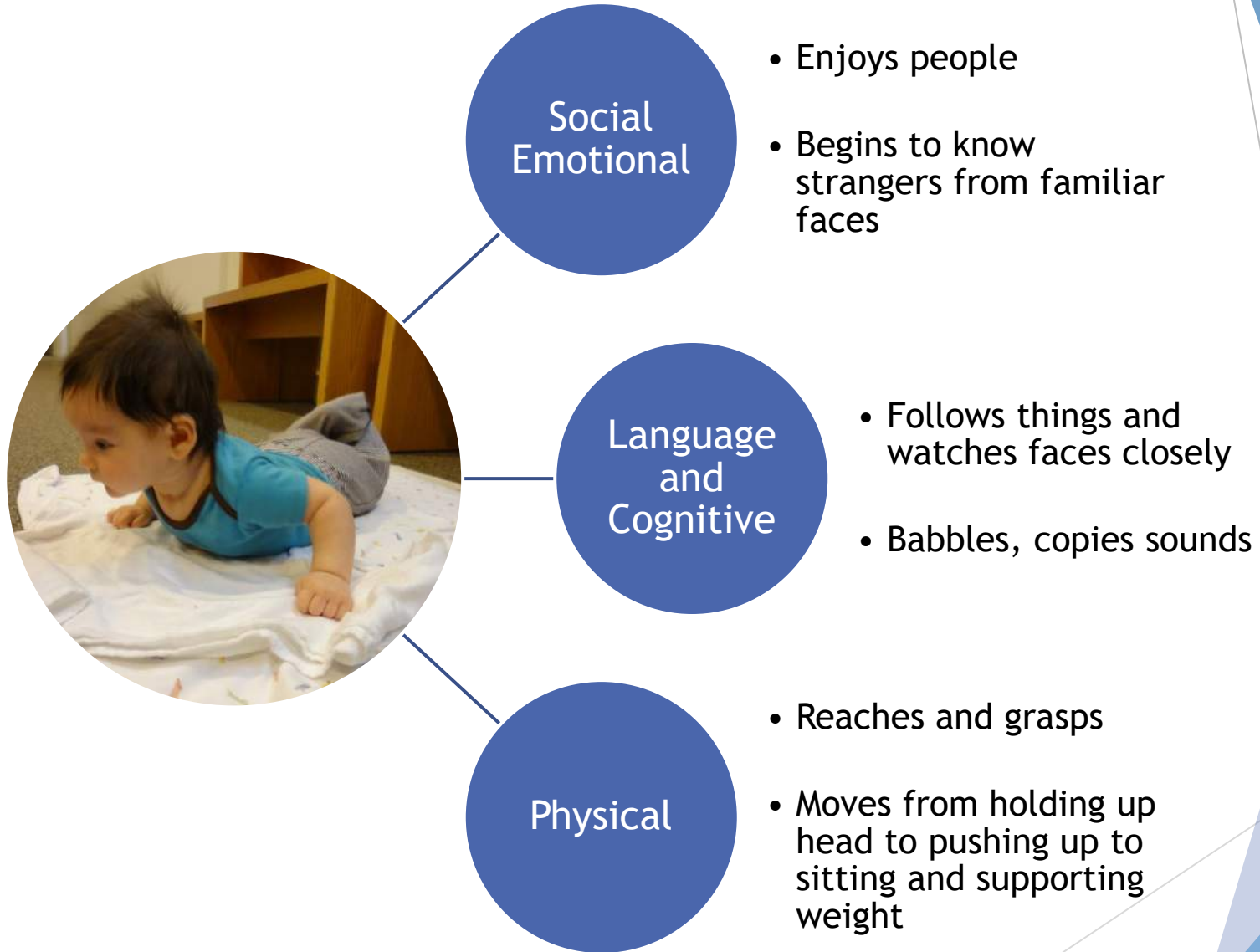
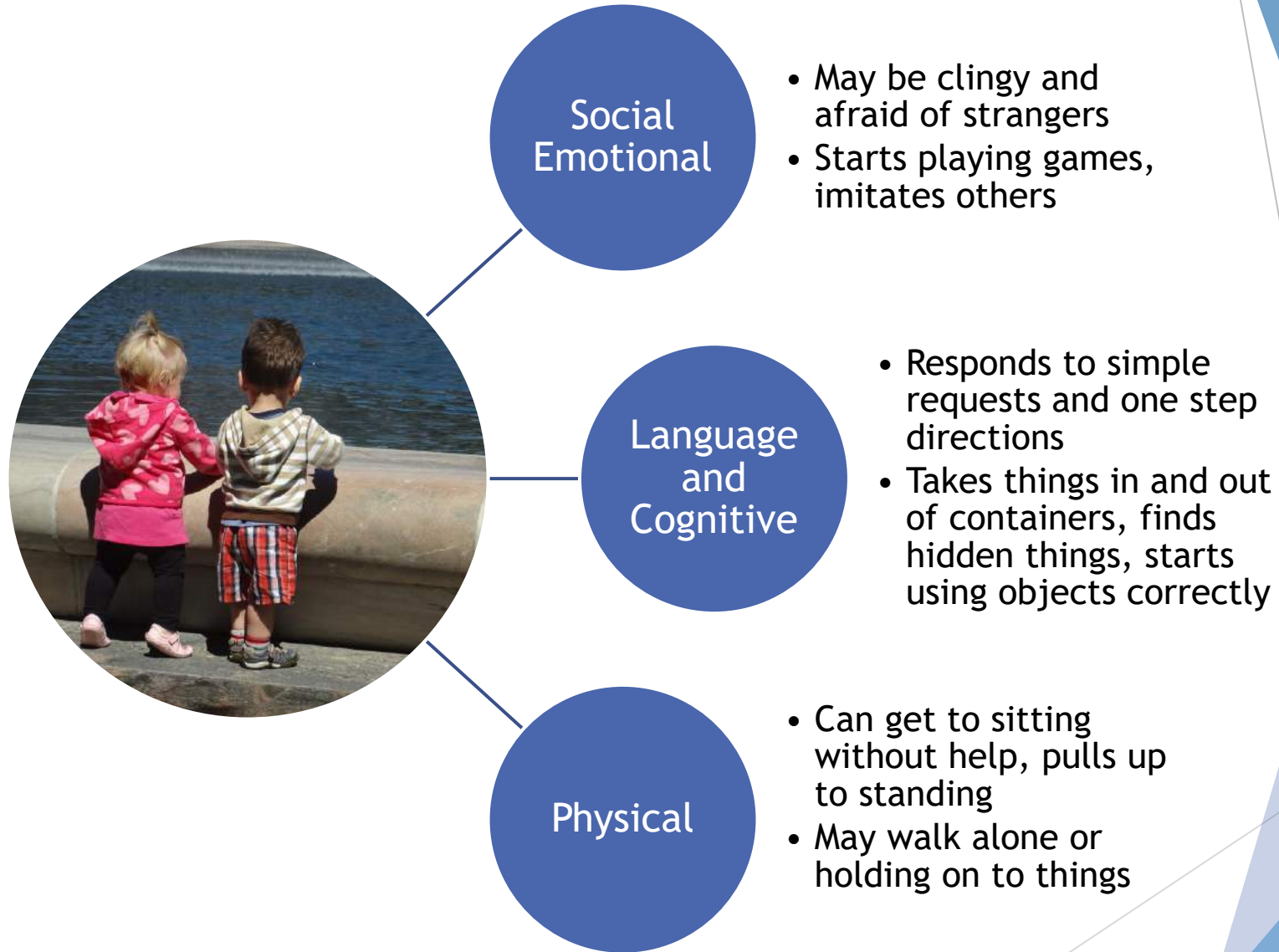


Illustration by Shaelyn
Amaio

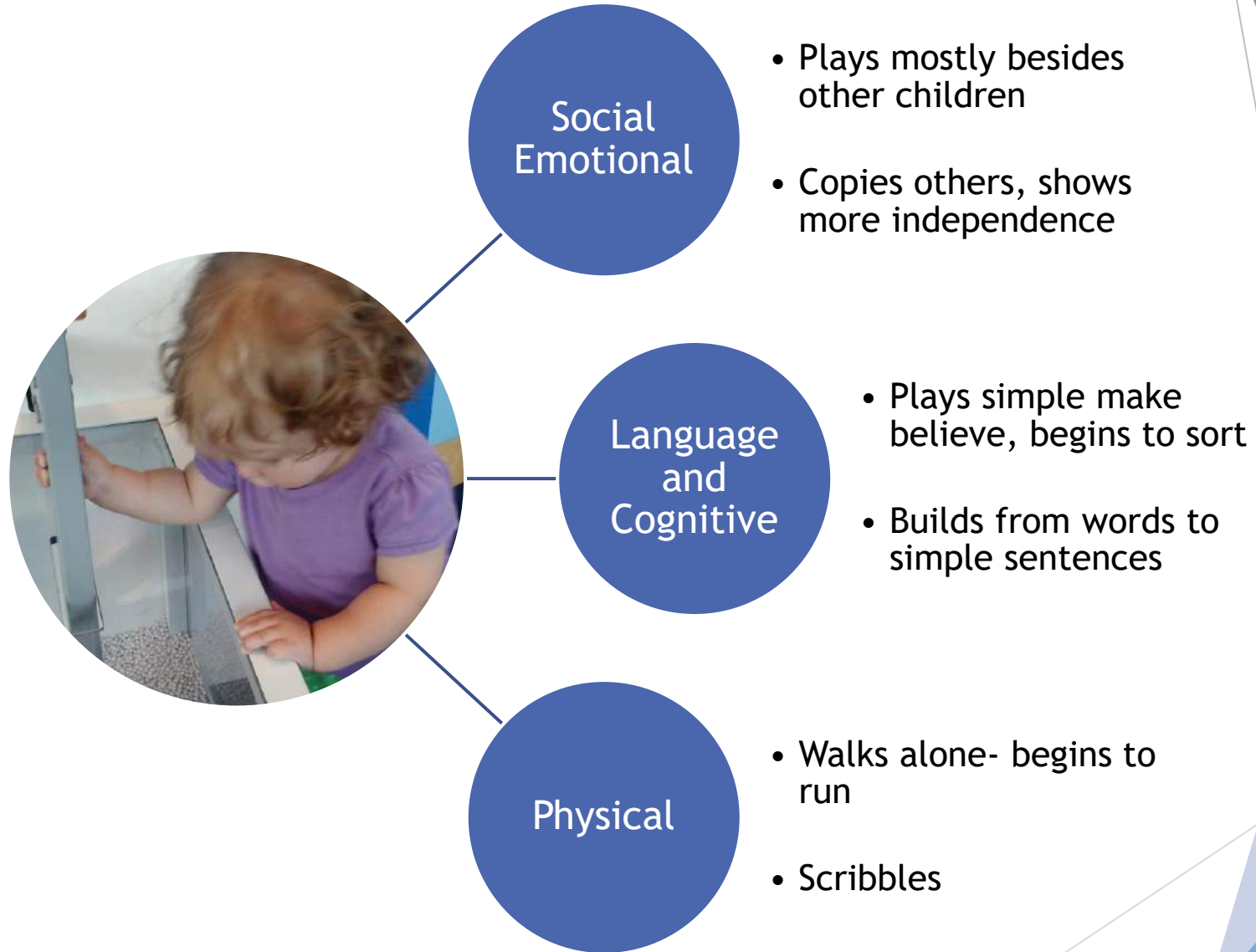
Birth- 7 months



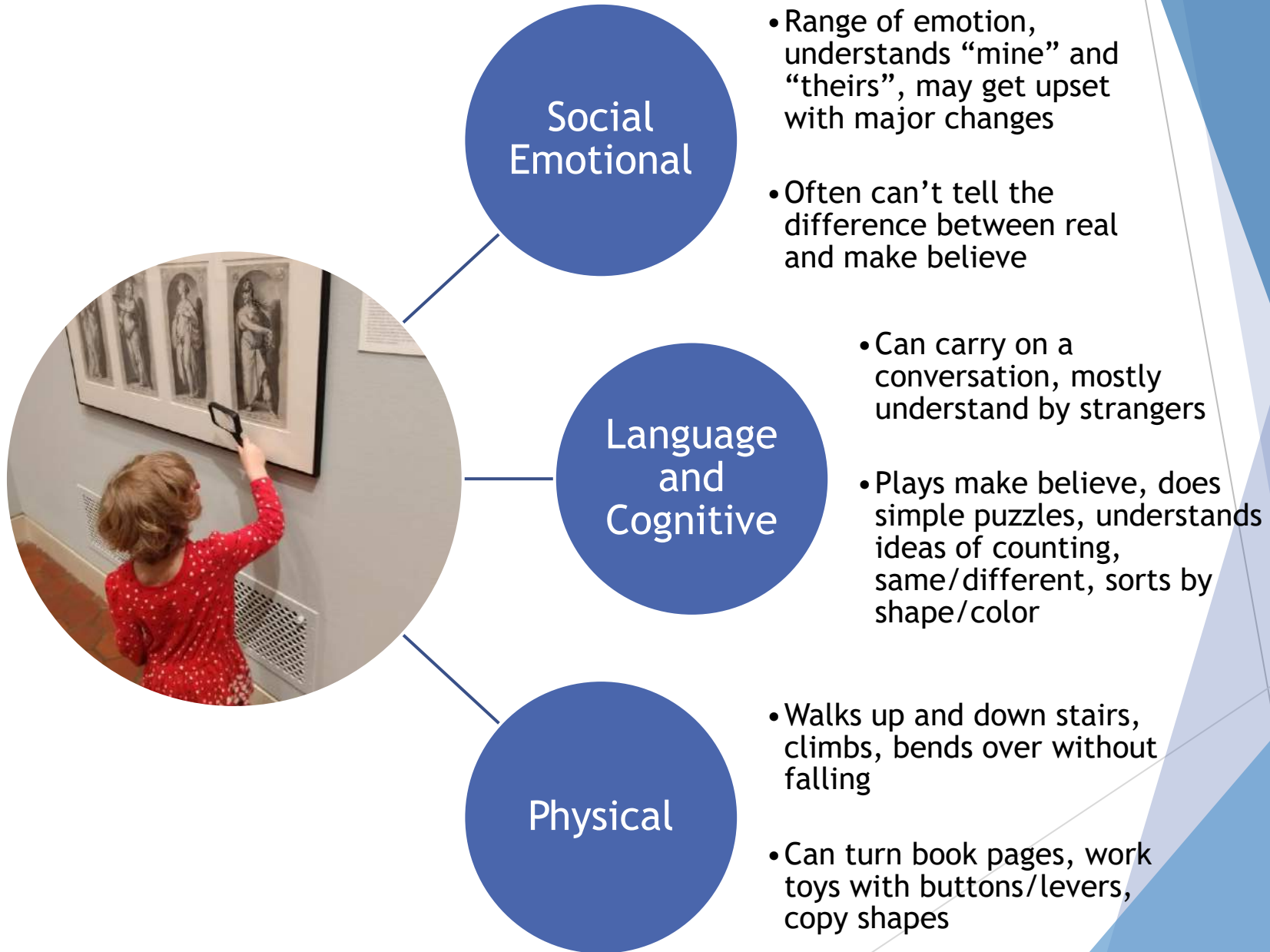
8-12 months



1- 2 years old



3- 4 years old



5 years old



Social
Emotional

- Sometimes very demanding other times very cooperative, shows more independence
- Wants to please friends

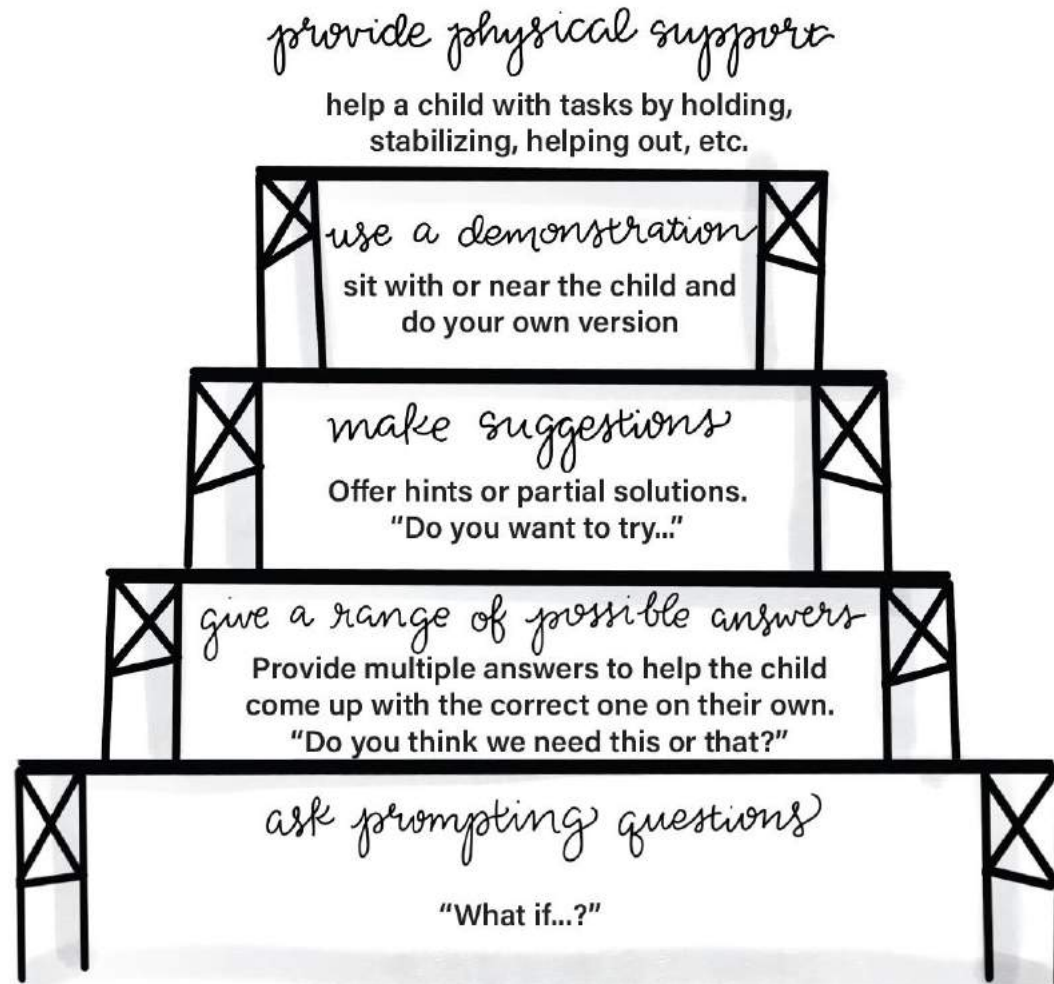
Language
and
Cognitive

- Can print some letters or numbers, knows about every day things (money, food)
- Tells simple stories

Physical

- Can draw person with 6+ body parts, copies shape
- Stands on one foot, may skip

Scaffolding





Lifeguard



Swim Coach



Life Jacket

WARNING

**NO LIFEGUARD
ON DUTY**



Off Duty

TALK TO YOUR STAFF
TALK TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Resources

- ▶ [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) - Developmental Milestones
- ▶ [childrensmuseums.org](https://www.childrensmuseums.org) - Association of Children's Museums
- ▶ [naeyc.org](https://www.naeyc.org) - National Association for the Education of Young Children
- ▶ [zerotothree.org](https://www.zerotothree.org) - Zero to Three
- ▶ [Edutopia.org](https://www.edutopia.org) - Edutopia
- ▶ [Learningforjustice.org](https://www.learningforjustice.org)- Learning for Justice
- ▶ [Kidsinmuseums.org](https://www.kidsinmuseums.org) - Kids in Museums
- ▶ Denver Art Museum, Boston Children's Museum, Museum of Science- Boston, Victoria and Albert Museums,

Diverse Book Resources

The Conscious Kid	theconsciouskid.org
American Indians in Children's Literature	https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/
Learning for Justice	www.learningforjustice.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw4ImEBhDFARIsAGOTMj8neQtu-Rgka3oyR6WnD_h-CXVJPzoiCmlZXBEnVJ_Cs83Vu3KHm4aAs4SEALw_wcB
Diverse BookFinder	https://diversebookfinder.org/first-time-here-welcome-to-diverse-bookfinder/
We Need Diverse Books	https://diversebooks.org/resources-old/where-to-find-diverse-books/
Multicultural/Culturally Responsive Books	https://libguides.luc.edu/c.php?g=49784&p=320661#s-lg-box-wrapper-3814161
Diverse Voices	www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/blog/collections/diverse-voices-childrens-books-that-celebrate-difference-6090
Seven Stories	www.sevenstories.org.uk/learning/books-and-resources
National Centre for Australian Children's Literature	www.ncacl.org.au/resources/databases/welcome-to-the-ncacl-cultural-diversity-database/
Embrace Race	www.embracerace.org/resources/where-to-find-diverse-childrens-books
Tapestry Books	http://tapestrybooks.com/
A Mighty Girl	www.amightygirl.com/books
SLJ Resources for Diversity in Kid and YA Lit	www.slj.com/resources/slj-resources-for-diversity-in-kid-and-ya-lit/#_
Diverse Book for the Under 5 Set	www.slj.com/2015/07/feature-articles/a-diverse-book-list-for-the-under-five-set/
Colors of Us	https://coloursofus.com/multicultural-childrens-books-lists/