

Resource Reviews

Reviewer: Sheonagh Donaldson, I CAN Regional Communication Advisor.

Tell us about resources and books you've found useful. E-mail:
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- ☆ Very specialised, unlikely to appeal to a wide range of practitioners
- ☆☆ Useful to early years practitioners with a specific interest in this area
- ☆☆☆ Practical, interesting and useful to most early years practitioners

Observation Sequences **Attachment and Holistic Development** The first Year
Written by Anne O'Connor

The Wonder Year 1st Year Development & Shaping the Brain
Written by Maria Robinson

Publisher: Siren Films Ltd
www.sirenfilms.co.uk

Rating: 3 star
Price: £89.00

Attachment and Holistic Development comes in a DVD and booklet set. Together, they help to demonstrate key points around child development, for use in training for early years practitioners primarily working with the under 3s. Many theories and research into attachment highlight the importance and value of secure and safe attachments between children and their caregivers. Being able to form secure attachment relationships in *care settings* can be just as important as those developed at home. The DVD contains a series of sequences throughout baby Orson's first year of life. The sequences emphasise the holistic nature of child development in the first year, including the attachment process. Each sequence involves interactions with significant others in Orson's life, demonstrating the impact an adult's behaviour can have on a child's developmental journey. Questions to stimulate reflection and discussion provide a valuable bridge to linking learning from the materials to everyday practical situations. The links with the Early Years Foundation Stage are extremely useful to practitioners, although limited to English documentation. Overall it is great to see such importance put on communication, play and interaction with babies at this early age.

The Wonder Year again forms a DVD and booklet set. Throughout the film, links are made to how Orson's brain is growing and being shaped by all of his experiences. It also highlights the importance of attachment in helping to develop safe and secure environments for the developing child. The resource provides useful clips for discussion and as it is divided into chronological sections from birth to one year, it can be used flexibly, depending on your own development needs. The initial information section provides an academic look at brain development but still with a practical application. A glossary to support understanding of less well known terms is provided. The resource then goes on to explore development including the themes of communication, co-ordination, gestures, object permanence and socialising. This resource could be 'dipped in and out of' to emphasise specific points in the training of education and/or health staff; used flexibly or as a whole viewing. This resource could support already existing training packages or be used as a stand alone package.