

## English content on the LearnECD Platform

14. April 2022

Title	Summary
<p>The Early Childhood Years - a Time of Endless Opportunities</p>	<p>The aim of this module is to enhance and up-date your knowledge on the fundamental importance of the child's first years of life, especially from conception to three years. Particular attention is placed on brain development which has a critical influence on neuro-biological pathways that affect health, learning and behaviour during the life cycle. The module contains results from a large number of research studies that show what is done or not done in early childhood has long-term ramifications for both individuals and societies, and demonstrates how it is more equitable and cost effective to invest in ECD programs, which can enhance children's potential, than it is to pay far more laterly to try to correct what could have been prevented.</p>
<p>The New Role of the Home Visitor</p>	<p>This module will assist you in understanding the importance of your role and responsibility for demonstrating professional practice when delivering the home visiting programme and working with individuals, families, communities and organisations.</p> <p>It shows your role involving working with children, keeping them in-mind and making their needs visible, within the context of the wider family and community. It also shows your work with the family members to identify strengths and human resources. They are located within communities and by knowing families living across a setting, your work can help with the growth of new supportive community networks. Finally, this module shows how you, as a professional, are working with the rules and regulations of organisations to ensure you provide safe practice and work within available resources.</p>
<p>IMCI, IYCF, AND CARE FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>Over the past decades, neuroscience and child development research have identified what new-borns and young children need to survive, thrive, and lead healthy and productive lives. In May 2018, this critical body of scientific knowledge was brought together and used to create the Nurturing Care Framework by WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank and other partners. Compelling and robust scientific evidence was translated into 5 easily understandable and mutually supporting components that are essential for children to thrive: Good health, Adequate nutrition and opportunities for early learning, Responsive caregiving, and Security and safety. This module will deliver additional WHO and UNICEF resources on IMCI (integrated management of childhood illness), IYCF (infant and young child feeding) and care for child development, that are not covered in the other modules.</p>

Falling in Love - Promoting Parent-Child Attachment	<p>This module will provide you with the basic theory on attachment and provide you with practice exercises to help you support secure parent-child attachments during your home visits. In your role as the home visitor, you have the opportunity to support mothers, fathers and other primary caregivers from the very beginning. Parents and children do not always automatically “fall in love” with each other. However, fathers, mothers, and primary caregivers can learn skills to be more attuned to their child, and this contributes to better attachment. As a home visitor, you have a unique opportunity to support them in this process, when there are some difficulties.</p>
Engaging Fathers	<p>In this module you will learn about the global trend that calls for greater engagement of fathers with their young children, and why support for this in public policy and service delivery is necessary. Fathers have substantial impact on the wellbeing of children and mothers, and the impact of fatherhood on men is important, too. Unless you engage with fathers in families, you provide a poorer service to children and mothers, and may place them at greater risk. A ‘whole team’ support is important to engage fathers in the routine of Home Visiting practice. Individual Home Visitors can have important, positive impact on fathers’, support for their partners and involvement with their babies and young children.</p>
The Art of Parenting - Love, Talk, Play, Read	<p>Children need a loving, secure, and stimulating environment for their optimum growth and development. For this to happen, their physical, developmental, emotional and psychosocial needs have to be met. As a home visitor, you have opportunities to make mothers and fathers aware of these comprehensive needs. In this module you will learn how positive relationships with parents, caregivers, and other family members, as well as stimulating home environments shape the child’s brain’s architecture and influence development across all domains (physical, social/emotional, language and cognitive). It will provide you with information on how you, during home visits, can foster strong relationships between the parents/caregivers and the young child and how to encourage a stimulating and safe environment that young children need for exploration and learning.</p>

Common Parenting Concerns	<p>Evidence shows that parenting empowerment can be a powerful and cost-effective tool to support the wellbeing of children and their families. To prevent behavioural and emotional problems and child maltreatment, one of the most important things you can do during your home visits is to increase the confidence, knowledge, and skills of fathers and mothers on how to raise their child. This module builds on the 5 core pillars of positive parenting. Positive parenting supports the healthy development and adjustment of children, using good communication, positive attention and problem-solving to promote nurturing family environments. This module will thus inform on how your role can guide parents to act on these 5 core pillars to find suitable solutions for themselves and their children.</p>
Parental Wellbeing	<p>As the trusted professional and friend of the family, you can learn about the mental health needs of a pregnant woman, new mother, or father and provide advice and first line listening support. This module will show you the need to encourage caregivers to speak openly about their feelings, without fear that they will be stigmatised or labelled as “bad parents” because they feel depressed, anxious, or unhappy before or after the birth of the child. Even though in cases where the condition appears to be severe, there may be a risk to the life of the mother or baby. The aim of this module is to enable you to keep the best interests of the infant, mother and father in mind by better understanding topics surrounding mental health and mental illnesses and when to intervene when necessary.</p>
Home Environment and Safety	<p>The majority of injuries (and in some cases even a child’s deaths) are unintentional and preventable. That is why your role as a home visitor is vital. As a professional visiting a child’s home, you have the opportunity to help families make immediate changes and provide them with information to make them more child-safety conscious in their behaviours. In this module on home environment and safety, you will receive evidence-based information and strategies to reduce these injuries' risk. Specifically, the module will give you information on the magnitude and impact of child injury, the reasons for children’s vulnerability, injury prevention principles, the leading causes of injuries in the home environment, their prevention, and immediate home-based treatment.</p>

<p>Caring and Empowering - Enhancing Communication Skills for Home Visitors</p>	<p>While communicating with families, you always must keep the child in mind. In the process of finding out how the child is doing it is of great importance to build a respectful relationship with parents/caregivers. For them to open up to you, share confidences, rely on your advice, and provide you with vital information about the child and themselves, parents have to trust you and feel safe with you. Although communication is part of every person's everyday life, good communication skills need to be practised and continuously improved as part of your professional development. This module will provide you with good communication and interpersonal skills, those that are essential when working with families. You will understand that you can listen without judging, advise without blaming or patronizing mothers and fathers. If you are warm, objective, empathetic and reflective, you will be able to build fruitful relationships with your families, based on mutual trust and respect.</p>
<p>Working Against Stigma and Discrimination - Promoting Equity, Inclusion and Respect for Diversity</p>	<p>It is important to question your own views and become aware of your own biases in order to be more professional and effective in your work. You have to approach every family with respect and empathy focusing on what they do and not on who they are (i.e., the label they carry). This module will enable you to understand how stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination are connected and how they contribute to the problems that some families on your caseload experience, your own biases and attitudes towards families and communities you are working with, and how these biases and attitudes might influence both your professional role and the lives of children and families. You will be able to recognise how discrimination becomes internalised by those who are discriminated against, how that limits their potential and opportunities, including parenting capacities, and be able to explore unbiased ways to work with families by exploring and building on their strengths rather than on their deficits. This way you will be empowered to intervene and to speak out on behalf of children and families you are working with and reduce stigma and discrimination.</p>

Children who develop differently	<p>Developmental difficulties, including disabilities are common everywhere around the globe. This means that you are likely to meet children with developmental difficulties when you visit your families. This module will enable you to contribute to the prevention of developmental difficulties, as well as to support the optimal growth of infants and young children who are living with disabilities or experience developmental difficulties. You will learn how children with developmental difficulties, including disabilities, who receive additional attention and support are more likely to reach their full potential. By observing the child, listening to parental concerns, using your knowledge of typical child development, and drawing on your professional experience, you may be the first professional to detect that a child appears to be delayed or is experiencing some difficulties in daily functioning and development. You will also learn how to share your observations with the parents in an empathic way. It is important for you to encourage parents to ask for and receive professional help so that they can provide a stimulating and inclusive environment that meets the child's particular needs for development.</p>
Developmental Monitoring and Screening	<p>Depending on the communities where you work, 1-2 of every ten children on your caseload may be at risk of experiencing a disability and/or developmental difficulty. Early identification of infants and young children with disabilities and/or developmental challenges is critical. The earlier these children are identified; the sooner they can receive the services they need to support their development. This module will demonstrate, how you have a crucial role in helping the family gain an understanding of the situation, how you can link them with formal assessment and early intervention services, advocate for them with the relevant support agencies, be there for them with supportive listening and advice on ways of dealing with stress. This module will provide you with the fundamental understanding that surrounds developmental monitoring to understand, advise and explain when needed.</p>

Keeping Young  
Children Free  
from Violence,  
Abuse and  
Neglect

Children have the need and right to be loved and nurtured in their home and in society. We want to maximise the chances that all children will reach adulthood, capable of leading a fulfilling, productive, and healthy life. This module will help you understand the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in relation to violence against children and neglect as well as the short- and long-term consequences of child abuse and neglect for an individual child and for society as a whole. You will know the different types of child abuse and neglect, be able to recognize some physical and behavioural signs of child abuse and neglect, understand protective and risk factors for child abuse and neglect, as well as understand that all professionals working with young children are accountable for safeguarding children from child abuse and neglect. You will by the end be able to analyse what the roles and responsibilities of other professionals and entities are and understand when and how to engage them, and how important it is to work with these other sectors. You will also understand the barriers of reporting child abuse and neglect in the population and among professionals and how you can contribute to the prevention of child maltreatment.

Working with  
Other Services

As a home visitor, you have an important role in supporting families with young children to achieve good health, development, and wellbeing. You visit families in their homes; assess their capacities; observe the relationships among family members and the living conditions; you observe health and child development issues and concerns; and you provide advice about child health, development and parental wellbeing. You can see the whole picture of the child and family; you make an assessment of their comprehensive needs; and you can help ensure a holistic system response to any identified needs. This module will help you understand that holistic child development needs to be supported by holistic and coordinated services and your role in this process may be. By understanding the circumstances and needs of a family, you will be able to identify risks or problems that you are not trained to address on your own and know when you need to refer the child and family to other services. It will also help you to understand the pathways and communication requirements that facilitate good collaboration with colleagues from other services, sectors and so that families will benefit from the best possible support.

Responsive Feeding	<p>Feeding and eating are about more than nutrients. It is an opportunity to assist many different facets of child development from sensory, motor, to cognitive and executive function and self-regulation skills. Health workers frequently give information to families about feeding their young child and what foods they should offer to their young child. This module will show you how to talk to families and offer suggestions about how to encourage the child to learn to eat the foods offered. This can help families to have happier mealtimes.</p> <p>child needs food, health and care to grow and develop. Even when food and health services are limited, good care can help make the best use of these limited resources. An important time to use good care practices is at mealtimes – when helping young children to eat. This module will teach you how responsive feeding is a two-way process whereby parent notices the child’s cues and responds appropriately to the cue, so that you can assist the developing foundations of a trusting relationship that will supports the child’s development.</p>
Supervision - Supporting Professionals and Enhancing Service Quality	<p>Systems of supervision are a part of the organizational commitment to maintain high quality of services for children and families. A clear supervision policy is a part of taking steps to create a culture that is interested in the needs of its frontline staff, e.g., home visitors, who regularly work with children and families and will affect their lives. Effective systems of supervision can reduce burnout and improve staff retention, by offering opportunities for staff to talk about their work and manage their emotional responses to work. The provision of supervision is part of an organisation’s duty of care to its employees who are providing a service on behalf of the organisation to families and communities. In this module you will learn about the meaning of supervision and the contribution it makes to support quality in the delivery of services and professional development of the home visitor and identify concrete actions and approaches that can be used to strengthen them.</p>
Gender Socialization and Gender Dynamics in Families - the Role of the Home Visitor	<p>Gender is the system by which society gives meaning to being women and men, girls and boys, based on factors such as influence in decision-making, control of family resources and assigned roles and responsibilities. What is considered acceptable for women, men, girls and boys varies by cultural context and changes over time. Though in most traditional societies, mothers are considered the primary parents and fathers the primary wage earners, increasingly mothers and fathers are sharing childrearing, household, and economic duties more equally. Gender-balanced familial environment is about developing roles and stimulating participation based on skills, interests, agreement and respect, rather than on predefined, stereotypical expectations. This module will show you how children benefit from having two involved parents: mothers and fathers can make unique contributions to a child’s development and how children’s development is more richly nurtured when boys and girls are given opportunities to participate in all</p>

	<p>activities and are not limited to typical gendered roles. In today's changing society, not all families have a male and female parent: home visitors can provide crucial support and affirmation to those families. This model will empower you to be aware of discrimination based on gender as something based within ourselves and to understand that it can intersect or overlap with discrimination based on region of origin, disability, social class, age as well as other forms of identity. You will be aware of some of our own values and biases related to gender and how they may impact home visiting practices, be able to offer advice to parents on how to share parenting responsibilities more equitably and recognize warning signs of gender-based violence and refer survivors for supportive services</p>
<p>Healthy weight, physical activity and sedentary time</p>	<p>Rates of overweight and obesity have increased dramatically over the past 40 years in all age groups. Overweight and obesity are primary contributors to the burden of non-communicable diseases throughout the lifespan with significant costs to the individual and to society. This module will teach you how the foundations of a healthy lifestyle – meaning healthy weight, an adequate amount of physical activity, and sufficient sleep – have their roots in the early years. You will learn how the level of physical activity and quality of sleep significantly affect child health, development, and wellbeing. The right information and behaviours, starting at (or even before) conception through the early years, can create the foundation for lifelong health and wellbeing. As someone who promotes the health and wellbeing of young children, it is your role to challenge unhealthy beliefs not only with parents, but also with family members, and the community at large. In your contacts with the family, you have a unique opportunity to observe and discuss levels of physical activity and sedentary time in the home, learn about sleep routines and patterns, and screen time. With your expert knowledge and position of trust, you can advise families on how to adopt daily routines that contribute to their children's health and wellbeing. This module will empower you to support healthy lifestyles in the families you visit, to contribute to optimal child development and the prevention of non-communicable diseases throughout the life course.</p>
<p>Protecting young children from vaccine preventable diseases</p>	<p>Poor or disrespectful responses to caregivers and their concerns, coupled with a lack of uptake of vaccines, can have a strong and negative impact not only on their future demand for vaccination, also, for a whole range of other health services. Research shows that those caring for children tend to trust the advice of their health workers when it comes to vaccination, despite conflicting and misleading information from other sources. With this module you will acquire the tools to influence and guide parents to make decisions in the best interest of their children by using your communication skills and your knowledge about how individuals make behavioural choices. As well as by listening to them and understanding their concerns, you can provide answers and help them to make the best choice for their child and their community.</p>

## ACC Training Modules

These six modules aim to help you explore how pictographic symbols, used for supporting communication, can help with early intervention strategies when working with young children who are non-vocal or have speech, language, and literacy difficulties. Aspects of total communication, such as multimodal methods will be touched on, taking a structured approach based on the social model of disability. These modules are provided externally of LearnECD on the Global Symbols platform, and are accredited with their own certificate of completion.