



# **Champions For Children**

**No More Difficult Clients,  
Using Touchpoints in  
Lactation Counseling**


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**&**

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# Touchpoints and the Brazelton Touchpoints Center

- Founded in 1996, the Brazelton Touchpoints Center is rooted in and builds upon the work of T. Berry Brazelton, MD, internationally renowned pediatrician, whose scientific research and clinical observations of babies and young children, beginning in the 1950s and spanning six decades, radically reshaped the field of early child development and the practice of pediatrics.
- Discrepancies between careful observations of infants, children and their interactions with their parents, and the reigning theories of his time. In essence, he discovered early on what neuroscience has recently reconfirmed at the neural level: that babies are born with innate and individually distinctive capacities for social interactions.
- This gave rise to the Touchpoints Approach



# Goals of Touchpoints

1. Optimal child development
2. Healthy, functional families
3. Competent and healthy professionals
4. Strong communities

# What is the Touchpoints Approach?

- It's a way of providing care to families by understanding a child's development. This is the essence of the developmental model of the Touchpoints Approach
- And supporting relationships. This is the essence of the relational model of the Touchpoints Approach

# The Developmental Model of the Touchpoints Approach

- A child's development is not a linear process
- It is characterized by regressions, bursts and pauses
- This appears to the parent or caregiver to be disorganization, or a child's behavior "falling apart"
- Regression in a child's behavior causes disorganization for a parent, generating parental frustration and self-doubt.

# The Relational Framework of the Touchpoints Approach

- The **opportunity** for the professional to join with the parent to form a supportive partnership
- **Collaboration** between the parent and the provider is key to effective anticipatory guidance
- Interactions focus on **parental strengths**

# A Paradigm Shift required of the Provider

## FROM

- Deficit Model
- Linear Development
- Prescriptive
- Objective Involvement
- Strict Discipline Boundaries

## TO

- Positive Model
- Multidimensional Development
- Collaborative
- Empathic Involvement
- Flexible Discipline Boundaries

# Local Resource in Training in the Touchpoints Approach

- In 2013, Champions for Children engaged staff from Brazelton Touchpoints Center to provide training for a cohort of 25 of its staff.
- In 2014, Champions sent first 1 team of 3 staff, then a second team of 3 staff to Boston to complete the intensive training for them to become credentialed Touchpoint trainers. Champions was designated a member of the international network of Touchpoints sites, only the second one in Florida.
- The 2 teams of local trainers have been training cohorts of Champions agency staff as well as community providers since 2014.





**Recognize the  
beliefs and biases  
that you bring to  
the interaction**

**All parents want to  
do well by their  
child**



## Contact information

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Thank you for your time and  
attention!

