EMPOWERING NEWCOMER FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN: INNOVATIVE PROGRAM DELIVERY

Tayitu Sebsibie
Supervising Team Lead, Early Childhood Education
Outline

• Who we are

• Trauma-informed approach

• Play-based approach

• Use of technology in early years
Who We Are:

- The ISANS Care for Newcomer Children program has three locations and can accommodate up to 145 children at any given time.

- We provide long-term care (LTC) and short-term care (STC) programs.

- Our LTC program is attached to language classes, and is for children from 6 months to 5 years.

- Our STC program is for one-on-one appointments and/or individual workshops, and is for children from 6 months to 13 years.
Our Classrooms
What We Need to Understand

• All children have basic needs
• Some children may not speak or understand English, but they have another language
• Children have unique stories and may have traumatic experiences
• Parenting styles vary between cultures
• Both parents and children may experience separation anxiety
• We must not make any assumptions about a family’s story or culture
• 100+ countries of origin
Trauma-Informed Approach

We follow the three pillars of trauma-informed care:

• Safety/trust – every child needs to be safe

• Connections – build connection between caregiver and children/family

• Managing emotions – getting to know children and helping them find a way to deal with different emotions
CIRCLE OF SECURITY®

PARENT ATTENDING TO THE CHILD'S NEEDS

I need you to...
- Support My Exploration

I need you to...
- Watch over me
- Delight in me
- Help me
- Enjoy with me

Always: be BIGGER, STRONGER, WISER, and KIND.
Whenever possible: follow my child’s need.
Whenever necessary: take charge.

Secure Base
- Protect me
- Comfort me
- Delight in me
- Organize my feelings

Safe Haven
- Welcome My Coming To You
Play-based approach

• We believe children learn through play
• Set up the classroom according to developmental areas
• Limit transitions
• Give children choices
• Use of technology including:
  • Squiggle-park educational video game
  • Interactive smart boards for gross motor activities and to display the children’s day in photographs
  • Series of videos on different parenting topics
Use of Technology: What is Squiggle Park?

• An educational video game to help children develop reading skills through a series of short, interactive games
• Encourages children to learn independently
• Learning through matching and sorting letters with audio prompts
• Uses a concept called “blended learning”
• Targets children ages 3-8
What do Children Learn When they use Squiggle Park?

- Alphabets and phonetics through 25 worlds with 300 levels
- To independently use technology with an iPad, phone or computer
- Listen to phonetics and get the right pronunciation
- To never give up and complete the level
- Time management and concept of screen time
Thank You