

Tayitu Sebsibie

Supervising Team Lead, Early Childhood Education

**EMPOWERING NEWCOMER FAMILIES
WITH YOUNG CHILDREN: INNOVATIVE
PROGRAM DELIVERY**

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

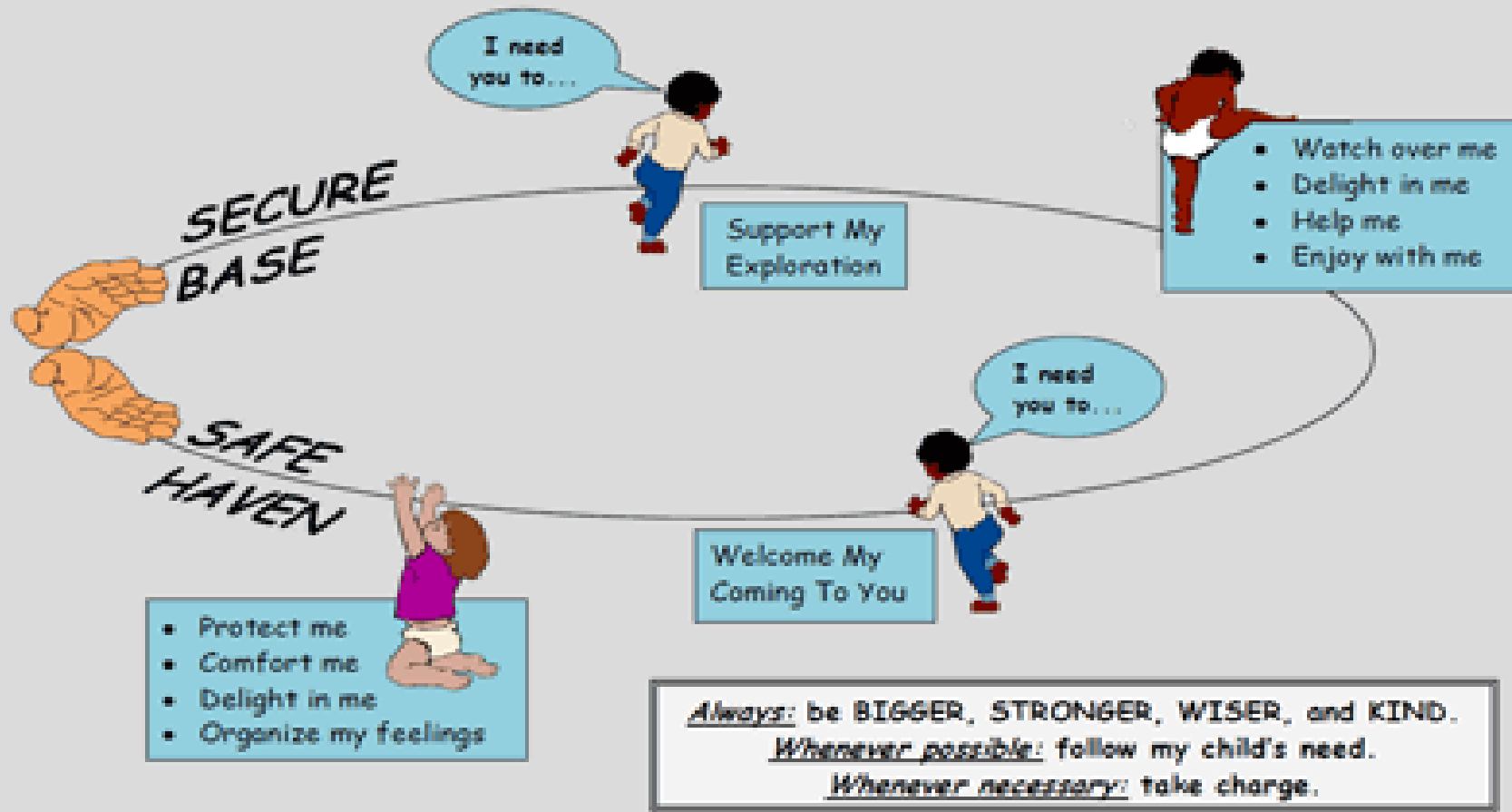
Trauma-Informed Approach

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



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

