

Practical Projects: Birth to 5 Years

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In a workplace day-care setting, a group of visitors stood in the corridor outside the baby room. One of the babies noticed the two visitors through the glass door, crawled over, and lifted himself up, leaning on the door. One of the visitors waved at him. He looked for a time, and then waved back. Other babies saw this play, and joined him, until three babies were waving through the door, and laughing as they did so.

When the visitors entered the room, they found that the babies did not approach them, but instead sat on the laps of the practitioners in the room, or involved themselves with toys on the floor. They did not seem to expect any further communication with the visitors. This surprised the visitors. Does it surprise you? What might be possible explanations? Perhaps the babies needed to feel safe and secure and so went to familiar objects and people. Perhaps they were not used to interactions of great intensity with adults in the nursery. Certainly, the practitioners were not engaging the babies in interactive communication with them. What do you think? Does it matter?