DEVELOPMENTAL TASKS OF THE FAMILY

Salvador Minuchin

Families with Infants (Ages 0-1)	Families with Toddlers (Ages 1-3)	Families with Preschoolers (Ages 3 -5)	Families with School-Age Children (Ages 6-12)	Families with Adolescents (Ages 13-18)	Families with Adults	Families with Elderly Relatives
Ensure Survival (feeding & caring)	Encourage Exploration (movement, imitation, trial & error)	Encourage Competence (skills & self-directed play)	Support School Experience (praise, help & contact with school)	Recognize Biological and Social Change (sex, privacy, autonomy)	Support Relationships (partners, kin, neighbors)	Monitor Health Needs (attention and care)
Connect the Infant to People (dependable contacts)	Help Speech Development (listening, talk, reading)	Establish Controls (clarity, patience, fairness)	Increase Responsibility (household chores & following rules)	Establish Mutual Rule-Making (negotiation, conflict resolution)	Organize Work Life (income, timing, responsibility)	Respect Independence and Experience (consult and give space)
Provide Stimulation (people, objects, play)	Protect and Control (limits, guidance, praise)	Coordinate Adult Authorities (agreement about rules)	Allow More Autonomy (privacy & privileges)	Clarify Role In the Family (balance autonomy & responsibility)	Clarify Family Roles (child rearing, decision making authority)	Include in the Family (contact, access to grandchildren)
Ensure a Sense of Security (predictability, affection, meeting needs)	Expect Individual Differences (variations as normal)	Encourage Relationships with Children (opportunities, settling conflicts)	Encourage Peer Group Activities (friends, visits, activities)	Clarify Firm Family Values (drugs, safe sex, school, future)	Organize Contacts with Extended Family (closeness and boundaries for privacy)	Negotiate Rules of Contact (closeness, distance, authority)
Help Older Children Connect To The Baby (supervised involvement)	Encourage Relationship Among Siblings (autonomy & supervision)	Maintain Relations with Day Care or Preschool (frequent contact)	Discuss Values & Social Behavior (drugs, sex & safety)	Recognize Power of the Peer Group (acknowledge, partial control)	Relate with the Larger Community (health, religion, education agencies)	Employ Community Resources (as needed)

Note: Rework all tasks through periods of growth and change.

Foster Parent Manual: Session One
Family Studies; 1990

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