



## About Us

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Connected Beginnings was launched by the United Way of Massachusetts Bay/Merrimack Valley, Inc. in 2007 to provide innovative, high-quality professional development experiences focused on supporting the social emotional lives of very young children and their families. Trainees represent a variety of early childhood professionals including educators serving children birth through eight years old, Early Intervention practitioners, pediatric clinic staff, child welfare and child protection providers, mental health clinicians, and infant/early childhood mental health consultants.

## Mission

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We build the capacity of infant and early childhood practitioners to engage in nurturing relationships with the very young children in their care. As research has revealed, positive, supportive, enriching and nurturing relationships with adults and other children are critical to young children's social and emotional well-being, mental health, evolving brain architecture and capacity to learn.

## Vision

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Every child will start life with loving, responsive and affirming relationships with parents and caregivers to provide a healthy foundation for life-long learning and connections with other people.

## The UMass Donahue Institute

Established in 1971, the UMass Donahue Institute is a public service, research, and economic development arm of the University of Massachusetts. Our mission is to foster healthy communities and support economies that alleviate poverty and promote opportunity. In collaboration with partner organizations and clients, we carry out our mission through research, education and training, capacity building, and direct services to strengthen our collective impact. For more information: [www.donahue.umass.edu](http://www.donahue.umass.edu).

## Contact Us

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## Connected Beginnings

Nurturing the Social and Emotional Well-Being  
of Children Ages Birth through Eight

UMassAmherst

Donahue Institute

[www.connectedbeginnings.org](http://www.connectedbeginnings.org)



UMassAmherst

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## Our Services

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At Connected Beginnings, we create, adapt, deliver, and evaluate professional development opportunities that inspire an awareness of the core importance of the dynamics of relationships within all families, across cultures and at the heart of high-quality early childhood settings.

**Trainings:** We offer professional development opportunities covering a variety of topics related to infant and early childhood mental health and social emotional development, including:

- Effective Family Engagement
- Nurturing and Responsive Early Childhood Care
- Preventing & Addressing Challenging Behavior
- Trauma Sensitive Practices in the Early Childhood Setting

**Coaching:** We provide evidence-based model support at the administrative and service provider levels promoting the translation of content to concrete practice.

**Consultation:** We facilitate discussion and action planning for groups large and small who wish to engage in system change devoted to effective engagement of families and positive social emotional outcomes for very young children.



## Our Partners and Process

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Connected Beginnings serves:

- Teachers, family child care providers, Early Intervention professionals, infant and early childhood mental health practitioners, home visitors, nurses, pediatricians, allied health professionals, paraprofessionals, administrators, and anyone interested in learning more about nurturing the social and emotional well-being of young children.
- State agencies and nonprofit agencies.
- The mixed delivery system for the care of young children including Head Start and Early Head Start, private and public early childhood programs, the Early Intervention system and out-of-school care.
- Organizations providing services supporting families across the region, country and world.

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