Interactive Family Learning in Support of Early Brain Development

**Project Team**

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**Target Audiences**

Public Audience: adult caregivers of young children (ages 0–5) and their families

Focus Audience: Latino adult caregivers of young children and their families

**Project Summary**

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), in collaboration with neuroscientists at the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), museum professionals, and community partners, is creating a bilingual (Spanish/English) traveling exhibition and educational programs about healthy brain development in young children up to age 5. The project will inform parents and caregivers about the neuroscience of the developing brain and engage families with young children in developmentally appropriate experiences that support brain growth and development in the first years of life.

**Intended Impacts**

- Caregivers will understand the importance of family interaction and play in the development of their children.
- Caregivers will be aware that scientific research has shown the benefits of rich, play-based interactions.
- Caregivers will feel more confident and comfortable in their ability to support their children’s development through interactive play.
- Caregivers will use or plan to use one or more interactive play strategies outlined in the exhibition.

**Hello, Brain! ¡Hola, cerebro!**

Design Sprint 2 experimented with:

- Communicating messages about early brain development with adults and caregivers in an active play area
- Designing activities and messages that encourage adult and child interaction and play

- **Communicating messages about early brain development**
  - **TUNE IN** by paying attention to what your children show you.
  - **TALK MORE** with your children using descriptive words to build vocabulary.
  - **TAKE TURNS** by encouraging your children to respond to your words and actions.

- **Reflecting on Emotion activities** engage families in exploring faces and feelings together.
  - English/Spanish Caregiver information about brain-building moments.
  - Puedes crear momentos de desarrollo cerebral en cualquier momento de tu día.
  - Presta atención a lo que tu niño(a) te está mostrando.
  - Habla más con tus niños(as) usando palabras descriptivas para desarrollar su vocabulario.
  - Tomar turnos animando a tus hijos(as) a responder a tus palabras y acciones.

- **You can make brain-building moments happen in your day.**
  - Presta atención a lo que tu niño(a) te está mostrando.
  - Habla más con tus niños(as) usando palabras descriptivas para desarrollar su vocabulario.
  - Tomar turnos animando a tus hijos(as) a responder a tus palabras y acciones.

- **Back-and-forth interactions between you and your children make powerful brain building moments happen.** Let your children lead the way, and follow by responding to their words, sounds, actions, and ideas.
  - Las interacciones entre tú y tus niños(as) hacen que sucedan momentos de gran desarrollo cerebral. Deja que tus niños guíen, y síguelos respondiendo a sus palabras, sonidos, acciones e ideas.

- **Our brains grow and change throughout our lives. In the first five years of life, our brains grow and change the most.** 700 million new neural (brain cell) connections form each second!
  - Nuestros cerebros crecen y cambian a lo largo de nuestras vidas. En los primeros cinco años de vida, nuestros cerebros crecen y cambian más. ¡700 millones de nuevas conexiones neuronales (células del cerebro) se forman cada segundo!

- **Adapted from “The Three T’s” created by the Thirty Million Words® Initiative of the TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health at University of Chicago. tmw.org**

- **OMSI**

**https://omsi.edu/products/brain-at-play-family-learning-brain-development**