



# **The Importance of Early Family Relationships**

Presented by Julie Stone, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2021

Community of Peri-Natal and Early Childhood Mental  
Health Practice

GVH Project ECHO

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“the greatest need of a child is to obtain conclusive assurance (a) that he is genuinely loved as a person by his parents [or substitute caregivers], and (b) that his parents genuinely accept his love....

Frustration of this desire to be loved as a person and to have his love accepted *is the greatest trauma that a child can experience.*” (p.39)

W. R. D. Fairbairn, Psychoanalytic Studies of the Personality, 1952

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## Suggested reading:

Fraiberg, S, Adelson, E, & Shapiro, V. 1975.  
“Ghosts in the Nursery: A Psychoanalytic  
Approach to the Problems of Impaired Infant-  
Mother Relationships.” Journal of American  
Academy of Child Psychiatry, 14(3): 387-421.

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