

# Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference

## Special News Release

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

PRE-CONFERENCE - SESSION A

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**ATTENTION**  
Exciting news

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We are pleased to announce *T. Berry Brazelton, MD & Joshua Sparrow, MD* to our pre-conference line up!

Please register *EARLY* for this wonderful opportunity to hear from our honored guests.



**T. Berry Brazelton, MD**, *Professor of Pediatrics, Emeritus Harvard Medical School*  
*Founder, Brazelton Touchpoints Center, Children's Hospital Boston*

A noted international expert on child development, Dr. Brazelton is Clinical Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and Founder of the Brazelton Touchpoints Center, a preventive outreach program that trains professionals nationwide to better serve families of infants and toddlers. He is creator of the Brazelton Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale (NBAS), which is used worldwide to test physical and neurological responses of newborns as well as their psychological well-being.



**Joshua Sparrow, MD**, *Director of Special Initiatives, Brazelton Touchpoints Center, Children's Hospital Boston, Assistant Professor in Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School* Child psychiatrist Joshua Sparrow founded in 2001 and leads the Tribal Touchpoints Initiative, bringing American Indian/Alaska Native Early Head Start and Head Start programs together to form a learning community support family and cultural knowledge, and community healing and empowerment.

*2 hour session includes Part I & II*

### **Part I: Touchpoints in Development: A Model for Early Intervention**

#### **Content Description:**

“Touchpoints” are opportunities for professionals serving young children and their families to help them through difficult yet predictable phases of development. As a child approaches a spurt in development, he experiences periods of frustration and regression. If parents understand the underlying reason for their child’s behavior, they will be less anxious and more ready to support and comfort him. Using the child’s behavior as the language between parents and providers is one of the effective strategies that Touchpoints offers for professionals providing preventive pediatric health care, early childhood education, and child protective services, as well as support to parents.

### **Part II: Touchpoints of Emotional Development in the Early Years**

#### **Content Description:**

In this workshop, participants will learn about Touchpoints strategies to help parents support their children's emotional development. From the beginning of life, family member and professional caregivers support infants and young children as they master the early Touchpoints of emotional development: attachment, self-regulation, and social interaction. Children learn to understand themselves and others in the context of relationships in which both children and caregivers are emotionally available. Caregivers’ capacity for authentic presence, for truly being with the child, may be challenged by overwhelming stresses, and restored by a web of nurturing relationships within families and communities. Early brain development and successful learning depend on the strengths of communities that encourage adults and children to be deeply present with each other.

Registration information available at: [www.whiteearthchildcare.com](http://www.whiteearthchildcare.com)