

**REFLECTIONS OF A NEW MOTHER
ON THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN CARING FOR
AN INFANT AND WORKING WITH CLIENTS
(OR WHAT NEW BABIES AND CLIENTS HAVE IN COMMON)**



- ♥ You have to start where they are---which can be tough because they can't always tell you exactly where that is, in words.
- ♥ It doesn't help to get upset just because they are.
- ♥ Sometimes what looks like a smile is really gastric.
- ♥ Sometimes when they initially fight your brilliant idea for an intervention, they end up liking it in the end.
- ♥ Sometimes they are inconsolable and they simply need to emote.
- ♥ They want what they want when they want it and then when they get it they don't want it anymore.
- ♥ They operate on their timetable, not yours---they are ready when they are ready, not when you are ready for them to be ready.
- ♥ You will fare better if you focus on "what is" rather than "how it should be".
- ♥ There is much that is outside of your immediate (or any other kind of) control.
- ♥ "This too shall pass", or: if things are going well, there will soon be a breakdown and if things are going badly, they will get better.
- ♥ It helps if they are cute.
- ♥ It helps if they like you.
- ♥ You are not at the center of their universe.
- ♥ You can, however, be very important.
- ♥ When you actually make a difference with them, it makes it all worthwhile.
When you can't is when you begin to learn about yourself.

by Rosemarie M Barbeau, from "Organization Development Classics"