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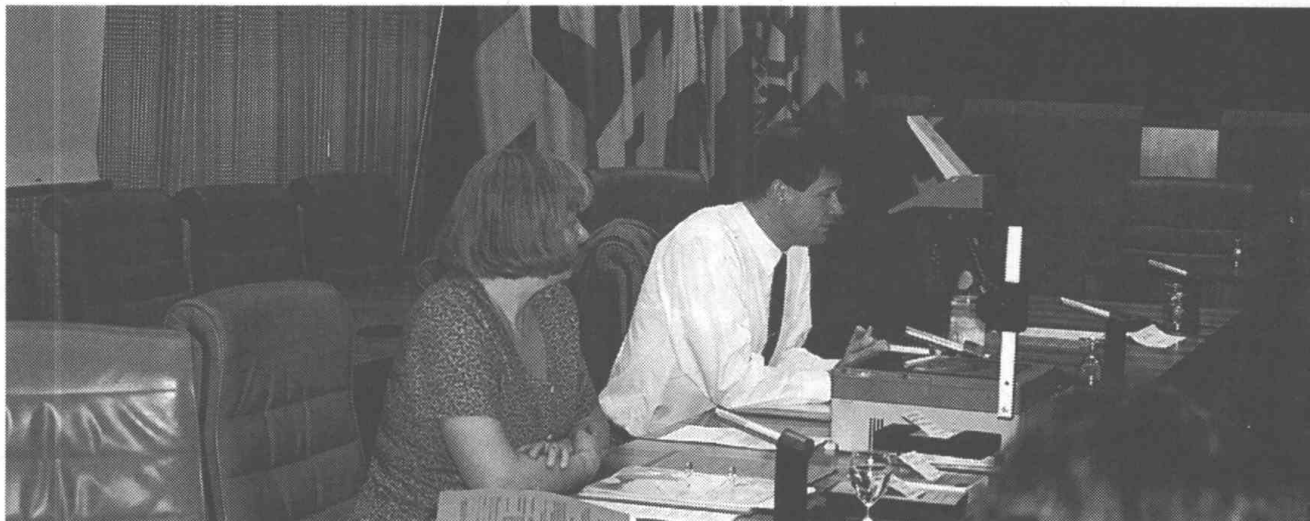
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**Smelling, Tasting, Looking, Moving,
Touching and Feeling, Listening:
Families and Professionals Sensing Together**

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In the beginning...

Before we are born, our main senses are alert and beginning to respond to the enclosed world around. Our biggest sensory organ, the skin, is continuously massaged and caressed within the womb. As we develop physically, we are subjected to a range of bodily movement sensations including our own involuntary movements, rotation and our mother's movements. About three months before birth, ears begin to listen and react to sounds made both inside and outside the womb. Taste buds and five million smell receptors are awakening to prepare for the smell and taste of nourishment outside the womb.

At birth, we are ready to show a preference for smells and a liking for particular tastes banana smells and milky tastes. As we are born, we tumble into a blinding world of visual confusion, although within eight weeks we are already differentiating between shapes, forms and colour with a preference for red and then blue. Soon we learn how to put two or three senses together for better effect - we snuggle into secure, warm arms, turning our heads to an interesting voice nearby and staring into a friendly face. We relate and bond to another human using a sensory platform which holds the five main senses taste, smell, sound, vision and touch - but also holds as many as 15 additional senses, such as weight, body position, balance, fatigue, etc.