About Us

The Regional Infant and Toddler Resource Network reaches out to communities, child care providers, families and businesses to promote safe, nurturing environments for the youngest New Yorkers. It emphasizes the high-quality early care that is essential to a child's long-term social, emotional, and intellectual development. That, in turn, has a significant positive impact on schools, businesses, and communities across New York State.

For more information and resources, please visit our website: www.earlycareandlearning.org/infant-toddler-network

Contact Us

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What is High-Quality Care for Infants & Toddlers?

National experts have identified 10 Research Based Components that are essential to high quality child care. Using these 10 components as a guide, the New York State Infant and Toddler Resource Network is helping child care programs improve the quality of care for our babies, toddlers and their families through training, technical assistance, mentoring and coaching.

1. Child Care Programs Following Appropriate Health and Safety Practices
2. Staff Well Trained in Early Childhood Development 0 - 3
3. Age Appropriate Environments
4. Small Groups with Optimal Ratios
5. Primary Caregivers and Continuity of Care
6. Active and Responsive Caregiving to Support Children's Development
7. Curriculum, Observation and Individualized Programming
8. Emerging Language and Literacy
9. Family Involvement and Cultural Continuity
10. Comprehensive Support Services

Investing in Infancy

85% of the brain’s core structures develop during the first three years of life.

Patterns for social interactions get established during the first three years of life.

Emotional foundations such as self concept, resiliency and controlling one’s behavior are developed during the first three years of life.

From both a development and economic standpoint, this is the smartest time to invest in our children. Research shows that for every $1 spent on high-quality early care and education, communities save between $4 and $17 in future social welfare costs.

Communities also gain students who are more likely to attend college and take their place in an educated workforce.

What do Infant & Toddler Specialists Do?

- Promote and teach the 10 research-based components of High-Quality Care for Infants and Toddlers
- Share the 10 components with consumers to help create a demand for higher quality care
- Coordinate with Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to reach parents in need of infant and toddler care
- Offer training and on-site consultation to providers that promotes warm, positive relationships between caregivers, children and families
- Promote the importance of infancy and the need for funding infant and toddler initiatives

Studies show that those who receive high-quality child care are more likely to succeed, starting in Kindergarten and continuing through adulthood. The foundation for this success must be laid early on, when children are infants and toddlers.

In New York, for the estimated 425,000 infants and toddlers living across the state, there are only an estimated 127,000 slots. This means that roughly 70% of infants and toddlers in New York might not have access to high-quality child care in their communities.

The Early Care & Learning Council has responded to this need. In 2002, with funding from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, seven Regional Infant Toddler Technical Assistance Centers were developed. These centers, located across New York State within host CCR&Rs, are staffed by Infant & Toddler Specialists.

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