

EARLY EXPERIENCES MATTER



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We are all a product of our earliest experiences.



As babies, the way we are held, talked to and cared for teaches us about who we are and how we are valued. This profoundly shapes who we will become. Early experiences set a course for a lifelong process of discovery about ourselves and the world around us.

During these first three years, we learn to give and accept love, be confident and secure, show empathy, and become a curious, eager learner.

Neuroscientists have documented that our earliest days, weeks and months are a period of unparalleled growth when trillions of brain cell connections are made. Research and clinical experience also demonstrate that health and development are directly influenced by the quality of care and experiences a child has with his parents and other adults.

The greatest opportunity for influencing a child's life begins on day one.

All babies need at least one person who is crazy about them.



BABIES MATTER



Focusing on the Early Years

ZERO TO THREE is a national nonprofit organization that informs, trains and supports professionals, policymakers and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers.

Our mission is to promote the health and development of infants and toddlers. We achieve this by translating research and knowledge—specifically information about the kinds of early experiences that help children thrive—into a range of practical tools and resources for use by the adults who influence the lives of young children.



Linking Many Fields & Specialties

We are unique in our multidisciplinary approach to child development. Our emphasis on bringing together the perspectives of many fields and specialties is rooted in robust research studies showing that all domains of development—social, emotional, intellectual, language and physical—are interdependent and work together to promote a child's overall health and well-being in the context of his family and culture.

WE ARE A UNIQUE VOICE FOR BABIES

In Everything We Do



■ *Training Professionals & Building Networks of Leaders*

ZERO TO THREE creates and distributes authoritative, research-based information on best practices and the latest developments to professionals who serve infants, toddlers and their families. We are best known for our expertise in infant mental health and social and emotional development.

We use large, well-established networks to distribute our work. We partner collaboratively with many organizations to reach settings as diverse as child care centers, home visiting programs, clinics and hospitals nationwide.

- ◆ Our Early Head Start National Resource Center provides practical information and resources to over 700 Early Head Start sites in all 50 states. Our work enhances the effectiveness of programs serving hundreds of thousands of at-risk infants and toddlers.

- ◆ Coming Together Around Military Families trains early childhood professionals at military installations and hospitals on how to support families with very young children who are experiencing separation, loss, trauma and grief due to their parents' deployment, injury or death.
- ◆ Our Court Teams for Maltreated Infants and Toddlers Project helps young victims of abuse and neglect who are served by the child welfare system. We pair child development specialists with family judges to ensure decisions are made and services delivered that best suit the developmental needs of infants and toddlers.
- ◆ Since 1979, thousands of early childhood professionals have gathered at our annual National Training Institute to learn about cutting-edge research and clinical practice in areas such as brain development, child care and school readiness.



- ◆ Leaders for the 21st Century is our national fellowship program that brings together professionals in a range of disciplines—including medicine, social work and law—to help expand their scientific knowledge of early childhood and enhance their leadership capacity.
- ◆ The renowned *Zero to Three Journal* provides current best practice information and research to thousands of professionals interested in advancing their knowledge about early childhood development.

It is a rare public policy initiative that promotes fairness and social justice, and at the same time, promotes productivity in the economy and in society at large. Investing in disadvantaged young children is such a policy.

James J. Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics, Wall Street Journal, January 10, 2006



■ **Influencing Policies & Practices**

Often, the needs of the most at-risk children are not identified until they reach school age—which may be too late. Both scientific researchers and economists have documented the value of identifying and intervening early with young children to shift the developmental trajectory of those greatest in need.

The ZERO TO THREE Policy Center is a highly respected nonpartisan resource for federal and state leaders seeking research-based child development information as they craft policies affecting the lives of young children, particularly those who are disadvantaged.

The Policy Center promotes positive policy change by using evidence from science, research and practice. Through online newsletters, webinars, printed materials, public forums and ongoing coordination with other national advocacy organizations, the Policy Center encourages action and investment in services for very young children and their families.



■ **Raising Public Awareness of Early Childhood Issues**

Parents are a child's first and most important teachers. We've heard from thousands of parents, grandparents and other caregivers about the information they want and need. By consistently providing reliable, science-based resources on how best to promote a young child's health and development, we have become the "go-to" source for today's busy parents and professionals.

We disseminate materials via the Internet, parent e-newsletters, parenting magazines and the news media. One of our most important channels is the early childhood professionals that families turn to for help and information.

Our award-winning Web site, WWW.ZEROTOTHREE.ORG, provides cutting-edge child development information on a broad array of topics. Culturally inclusive materials encourage parents to make decisions about their children that best reflect their own values and parenting strategies.



BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR BABIES

Help Us Make a Difference

We have worked for over 30 years to improve the odds for infants, toddlers and families. Research on the developing brain demonstrates the need for early support to reduce the negative impact of stress and adversity on a young child's development. Research also shows that supportive family relationships matter.

At ZERO TO THREE we envision a society that has the knowledge and will to support all infants and toddlers in reaching their full potential.



*Change happens one child at a time. Help us
to make a difference—right from the beginning.*



To learn more, visit
WWW.ZEROTOTHREE.ORG
or call 202.638.1144

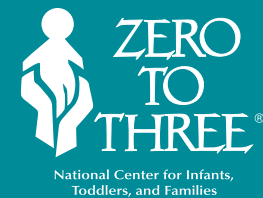


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