



Baby Talk: Resources to support the people who work with infants and toddlers

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Baby Matters: A Gateway to State Policies and Initiatives

Baby Matters is ZERO TO THREE's searchable database of resource information on state policies and initiatives that impact infants, toddlers and their families. The policies and initiatives are searchable by category, state, or keyword. A detailed description of each policy or initiative is provided, as well as links to additional related resources.

<http://policy.db.zerotothree.org/policyp/home.aspx>

Early Play = Academic Achievement

A new study shows that when parents engage toddlers in cognitively stimulating play such as pretend play, it can have long-lasting effects on their children's academic success. The [15-year longitudinal study's results](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19424620.2011.640559) (<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19424620.2011.640559>), published in *Family Science*, found that such parental interaction when children were as young as 2 years old (as observed with 229 children in the Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project) predicted fifth grade math and reading achievement. This builds on years of research, as compiled in this [article](http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/beautiful-minds/201203/the-need-pretend-play-in-child-development) (<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/beautiful-minds/201203/the-need-pretend-play-in-child-development>) at *Psychology Today*, showing that imaginative play is a critical part of healthy child development, particularly for cognitive and social development.

Got a Fussy Baby?

Partners in Care: Supporting Fussy Babies in Child Care is a booklet that was developed by the Fussy Baby Network to support infant child care teachers, infant program directors, and other professionals in supporting families and their fussy babies, who may also have difficulties with feeding, sleeping, and other daily routines.

<http://www.erikson.edu/PageContent/en-us/Documents/partnersincare.pdf>

A Guide to Effective Consultation in Settings Serving Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) developed this guide to define core knowledge, competencies, and dispositions for consultants working with early care and education programs and diverse settings serving infants, toddlers, and their families. Settings include center-based child care, family child care, Early Head Start, family, friend, and neighbor care, Part C early intervention, home visiting, and early childhood mental health. http://transition.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2011_effective_consultation.pdf

Bilingual Baby Research

A study conducted last year at the University of Washington Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences suggests that the brain of a baby who has heard more than one language since birth (or even in-utero) remains more receptive to learning more languages for a longer period of time than a monolingual brain. <http://utsa.edu/today/2011/08/bilingualbaby.html>

Baby Talk is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features one or more resources, the majority of which are available to download at no cost. To join the listserv, send an email **with no message** to subscribe-babytalk@listserv.unc.edu For additional information (or to offer suggestions), please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu or (919) 966-6635.