

North Carolina 2019 Policy Priorities for Infants, Toddlers, and Families

Developed by the Think Babies™ NC Leadership Team



When we support babies in their earliest years, we prepare them to grow, learn and succeed – and our communities, workforce and economy become stronger and more productive.

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SUCCESS



Brains are built, not born. Babies' experiences shape brain development and build the foundation for future learning, behavior and health.



Parents play the lead role in their child's development, but all parents are stretched in the earliest months and years.

Our state and our communities all have a role to play in providing parents with support they may need at this especially critical time.



Policies and programs should ensure healthy beginnings at birth, support families with young children, and make high-quality child care accessible and affordable.

THINK BABIES™ NC 2019 POLICY PRIORITIES



All Young Children Need Healthy Beginnings

- Make sure parents have access to health insurance by closing the coverage gap.
- Adopt reasonable workplace accommodations for pregnant employees.



All Young Children Need Supported Families and Supportive Communities

- Increase opportunities for home visiting and parenting education programs.
- Adopt paid family and medical leave for employees.



All Young Children Need Access to Quality Early Care and Learning Experiences

- Increase child care subsidy funding and change waitlist policy to expand access to high-quality, affordable infant and toddler child care.
- Make sure families living in child care deserts have access to high-quality infant and toddler child care.
- Ensure infants and toddlers have well educated and well compensated teachers with the skills needed to support healthy development.



All Young Children Need To Be Counted

- Make sure North Carolina's infants and toddlers benefit from their fair share of federal investments in programs that support healthy development by ensuring an accurate 2020 Census count.

About Think Babies™ NC:

Think Babies™ NC seeks to advance policies that support the healthy development of North Carolina's babies and toddlers. Think Babies™ NC is led by the NC Early Education Coalition with support from the NC Early Childhood Foundation and a Leadership Team of state and local organizations.

Think Babies™ NC website:

<https://www.ncearlyeducationcoalition.org/think-babies-nc/>