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Babies come into this world ready and wired to form relationships. From the moment they are born, they are developing social responses and learning about themselves and the world around them.

Infant and early childhood mental health is at the center of every single step we take. We know that if we don't begin by acknowledging that babies come into the world with a capacity to be active participants rather than passive observers of the world around them.

JUMP TO:

Why It Matters

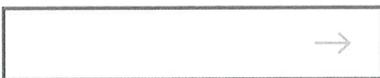
By the Numbers

Our Impact

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Mental health is formed in our earliest days, even before b

ZERO TO THREE Issue Area - IECMH



1.

Why It Matters

Infant and early childhood mental health is at the center of all the ec advocate for and support.

But despite trending conversations about our emotional well-being, the mental health of o a baby grows through infancy, toddlerhood and the preschool years, each experience—po wellness. We help children and their families build a strong foundation and support them v

1.

By the Numbers

Children’s mental health has a direct impact on their so development

10-16%

22%

For babies in poverty, that number is even higher—22 percent.

\$3.64

Funding infant and early child mental health programs is a solid investment. Each dollar investe treatments later in life.

Source: Think Babies. (2022). Infant and early childhood mental health (<https://www.thinkbabies.org/policy-pri> Control and Prevention (2022, June 3). Data and statistics on children’s mental health (<https://www.cdc.gov/cf>

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By promoting the social-emotional health of infants a potential to positively impact the trajectory of a child

KERRIE SCHNAKE ([HTTPS://WWW.ZEROTOTHREE.ORG/NEWS/ZERO-TO-THREE LEADERSHIP-AWARDS/](https://www.zerotothree.org/news/zero-to-three-leadership-awards/))

Urge policymakers to prioritize infant a mental health and support healthy emo right from the start.

ACT NOW →

1.

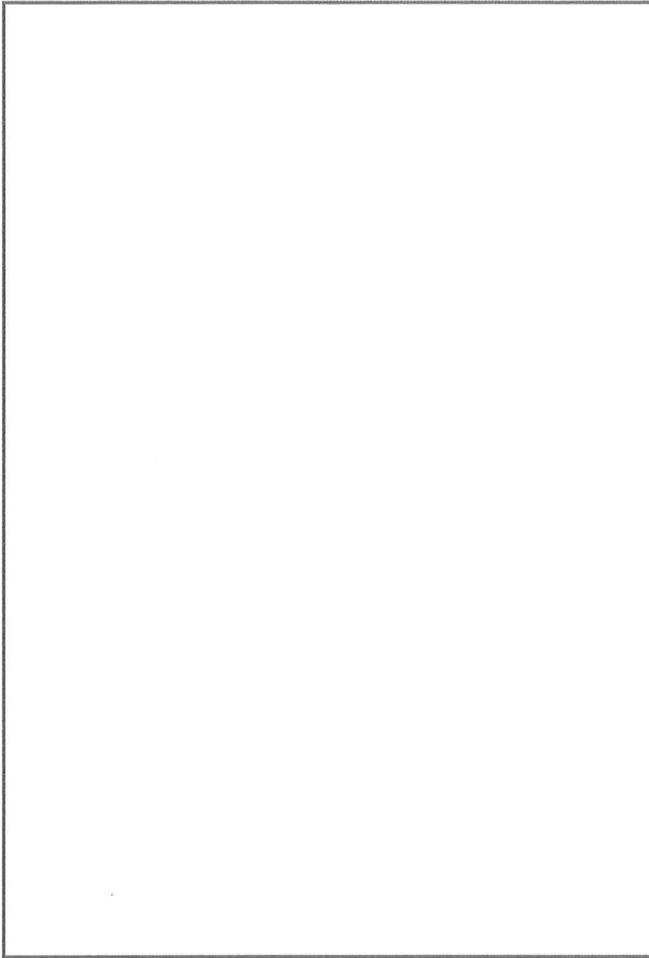
Our Impact

We advocate for the federal government to dedicate funding and support a \$50 million grant for infant and early childhood mental health, the in community block grant and an additional \$50 million for leadership professionals.

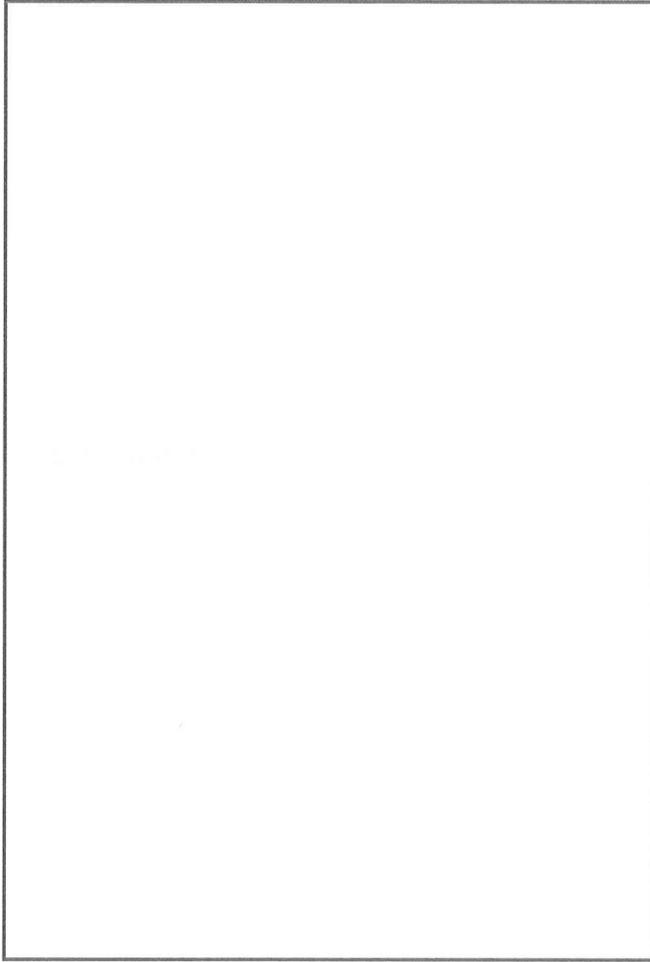
We also publish the *DC:0-5™ Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental health diagnostic tool* specifically for young children.

Related Resources

[VIEW ALL RESOURCES](#)







It takes a village to promote infant and ear health.

Our DC:0-5 Clinical Training supports clinicians, pediatric early intervention specialists who diagnose and treat ment from birth to 5 years old.

[SEE UPCOMING TRAININGS →](#)