Strengthen the Infant Toddler Teaching Workforce by Increasing Compensation and Education Standards

Think Babies[™] NC Leadership Team



Infant-toddler educators in North Carolina are woefully underpaid and underprepared. In order to provide infants and toddlers with high-quality early learning experiences, teachers must be well educated, well compensated, and have the skills needed to support healthy development.

INFANT TODDLER TEACHERS ARE THE LEAST EDUCATED OF ALL EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS

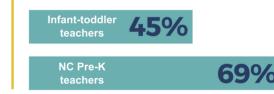
The national recommendation

The standard for lead teachers in NC is a high school diploma and 1 course in early childhood





Far fewer infant-toddler teachers have earned an associate degree or higher compared to those teaching in NC Pre-K



INFANT TODDLER TEACHERS ARE LIVING IN POVERTY

44% of infant-toddler teachers have relied on some form of public assistance



Infant-toddler teachers are paid an average of **\$10 per hour**



Infant-toddler teachers are paid **\$4 less per hour** than similarly qualified teachers working with 3-year-olds.



LOW EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS AND INADEQUATE COMPENSATION LEAD TO TURNOVER AND A SHORTAGE OF INFANT-TODDLER TEACHERS



of infant-toddler teachers predict they will leave the field in three years Enrollment in community college early education programs has dropped by **43%**



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