

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

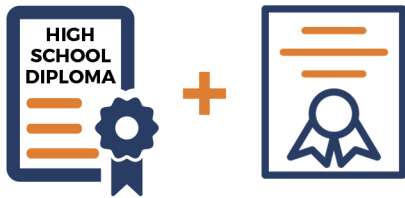
Think Babies™ NC Leadership Team



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



The national recommendation for infant-toddler teachers is a Bachelor's Degree



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

Infant-toddler teachers **45%**

NC Pre-K teachers **69%**

## INFANT TODDLER TEACHERS ARE LIVING IN POVERTY

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



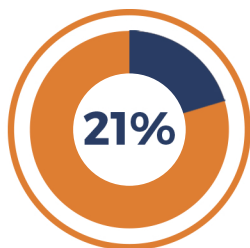
Infant-toddler teachers are paid an average of **\$10 per hour**



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



**21%** of infant-toddler teachers predict they will leave the field in three years

Enrollment in community college early education programs has dropped by **43%**

