



# NC Early Childhood Action Plan



## Bold

- Sets a vision and goals to reach by 2025 for NC children.
- Focuses on how we can change outcomes for young children from birth through age 8 and their families.
- Centers on three themes: that North Carolina's young children are healthy, grow up safe and nurtured, and are well-supported to be learning and ready to succeed.
- Builds off the extensive leadership of NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading led by the NC Early Childhood Foundation, NC Think Babies, the NC Perinatal Health Strategic Plan, the North Carolina Institute of Medicine Essentials for Childhood Taskforce, and others.



## Data-Informed

- All 10 goals feature a measure of accountability by 2025.
- Data for each goal include statewide and county information, broken down by demographics.
- An online data dashboard provides public accessibility for over 50 measures.



## Evolving

- Governor Roy Cooper issued an executive order charging the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) to collaboratively lead the development of a statewide early childhood plan, with support from the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), other departments and stakeholders.
- Nearly 1,500 people from across the state provided feedback and input in the drafting of the plan.
- Feedback was provided from a broad range of stakeholders, including parents, families, healthcare providers, child care providers, educators, school administrators, child advocacy groups and researchers.
- The plan will be reevaluated on an ongoing basis as appropriate measures and areas of focus shift over time.

Visit [www.dhhs.nc.gov/early-childhood](http://www.dhhs.nc.gov/early-childhood) to view the NC Early Childhood Action Plan and the Data Dashboard.

# 2025 Goals At-A-Glance



## Goal 1: Healthy Babies

Babies across North Carolina from all backgrounds will have a healthy start in their first year of life.



## Goal 2: Preventive Health Services

Babies, toddlers, young children and their families will have regular, ongoing access to high-quality health services.



## Goal 3: Food Security

Babies, toddlers, young children and their families across North Carolina will have access to enough healthy food every day.



## Goal 4: Safe and Secure Housing

Babies, toddlers, young children and their families across North Carolina will have access to safe, secure and affordable housing.



## Goal 5: Safe and Nurturing Relationships

Babies, toddlers and young children across North Carolina will grow up with safe and nurturing family and caregiver relationships.



## Goal 6: Permanent Families for Children in Foster Care

Babies, toddlers and young children in foster care will grow up in stable, consistent and nurturing families, whether that is with the child's birth family or through an adoptive family.



## Goal 7: Social-Emotional Health and Resilience

Babies, toddlers and young children across North Carolina will express, recognize and manage their emotions in a healthy way, especially under stress.



## Goal 8: High-Quality Early Learning

Babies, toddlers and young children across North Carolina will have access to high-quality opportunities to engage in early learning.



## Goal 9: On Track for School Success

Young children across North Carolina will enter kindergarten on track for reaching their developmental goals.



## Goal 10: Reading at Grade Level

Young children across North Carolina will read on grade-level in elementary school, with a particular focus on African American, American Indian and Hispanic children who face the greatest systemic barriers to reading success.