

Keeping families together by igniting collective action across states and local communities to meet the urgent needs of babies and toddlers

Through an innovative, team-based approach, Safe Babies, a program of ZERO TO THREE, applies the science of early childhood development to meet the urgent needs of babies and toddlers under court jurisdiction, ultimately transforming child welfare into the practice of strengthening child and family well-being.



FIVE AREAS OF FOCUS

1

ENHANCED OVERSIGHT AND COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING

Enhancing judicial oversight with more frequent court hearings and engaging families as partners guided by respect, kindness, and compassion

2

EXPEDITED, APPROPRIATE, AND EFFECTIVE SERVICES

Ensuring services for babies and their families are timely and comprehensive while respecting their lived experiences and the intergenerational effects of social, racial, and health inequities

3

TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE SUPPORT

Responding to trauma with a healing approach while recognizing the resilience of parents and understanding the lifelong, systemic social and health inequities facing some families with young children

4

CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Driving and sustaining best practices to foster reflection instead of reactivity, allowing the space for families and professionals to grow, adapt, and change based on effective data and evaluation

5

INTERDISCIPLINARY, COLLABORATIVE, AND PROACTIVE TEAMWORK

Ensuring families' individualized needs are addressed by promoting coordination across communities to find creative solutions and remove structural barriers that perpetuate discriminatory processes and inequities

Implementing a team-based, multilevel approach to infuse child and family well-being into the practice of child welfare

Child and Family Level

Integrate best practices into court proceedings and child welfare case planning processes.

State and Site Level

Align solutions across multi-sector community partners to create a continuum of best practices and services for all families.

SAFE BABIES TEAMS

Active Community Team

Collaborates on efforts to improve access to comprehensive prevention, early intervention, and therapeutic services and supports for families with young children

Family Team

Engages families in collaborative, proactive case planning that centers decision-making on children's developmental need for safe, stable, and nurturing early caregiving relationships and the individualized needs of each family member

Site Implementation Team

Provides oversight for effective implementation and sustainability of the Safe Babies approach at the local community level, develops site policies and procedures, and guides day-to-day operations

State Advisory Group

Comprises allies who have influence and decision-making authority to coordinate solutions by sharing expertise on financing and sustaining programs in early childhood, child welfare, and other family-related support areas

State Team

Provides strategic and administrative leadership and coordination to the state's implementation of infant-toddler court teams, in collaboration with multi-sector partners, while driving policy, advocacy, and funding to support and sustain the Safe Babies approach

LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

- Improved alignment and integration across early childhood systems, including health, child welfare, early care and education, and other human services and family-support programs
- Increased availability and accessibility of services and supports that address the social determinants of health
- Changes in policies and practices at the national, state, and local level that ensure equity for families with young children
- Lower rates of initial child maltreatment/neglect and reduced rates of repeat maltreatment
- Reduced removal of children from families in underserved populations, including Black and American Indian/Alaska Native communities
- Stronger parent protective factors
- Improved child and family well-being

