

New York Zero-to-Three Network (NYZTT) Infancy Policy Leadership Circle

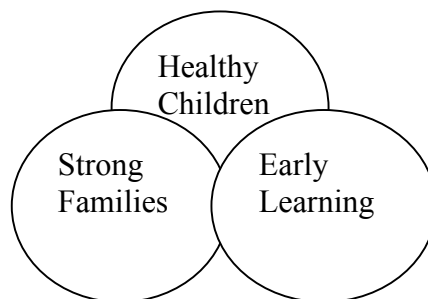
Purpose: To create an organized, cross-disciplinary voice for infants, toddlers, and their families that will raise public awareness of the importance of the first three years of life and develop an agenda for improving public policy and expanding state investment.

Who: The public policy committee of NYZTT Network has been identified by several national and New York child advocacy groups as the ideal convener of this new statewide policy leadership circle. NYZTT Network has been in existence in the New York City metropolitan area since 1995. It is modeled after the national Zero to Three with its cross disciplinary focus on infants, toddlers and families. NYZTT network will reach out to professionals across New York State who focus on babies and families and who have shown leadership and demonstrated advocacy skills. Interested individuals will join NYZTT network and be officially recognized as a member of the Policy Circle. The goal is to have a diverse group that is representative of various geographic areas, cultural groups and disciplines. For more information, contact Zero to Three Birth to Three State Advocates Jackie Jones of Buffalo (jjones@caoheadstart.org) or Carole Oshinsky of Yonkers (coshinsky@nyzerotothree.org).

Communications: The Policy Leadership Circle will meet in person three or four times per year in different locations across the state. Regular communication will occur via a list serve, web site, monthly conference calls and other electronic means. Policy Circle members will volunteer/be appointed to represent NYZTT on additional child advocacy groups and to serve as a communications liaison between the Policy Circle and wider child advocacy efforts. Regional or local events such as infancy summits will offer opportunities to develop personal relationships with other leaders. Advocacy days in Albany will focus attention on infancy issues, and materials can be customized to communicate local needs to policymakers.

What: Beginning in the 1990's, in New York and across the country, a new awareness regarding babies and the importance of the first three years emerged. The next decade saw statewide conferences and local collaboratives that focused on infancy. The time has come to harness the energy created by this "infancy movement" into a comprehensive New York agenda for babies and families. The Policy Leadership Circle will work with the NYZTT Check Up report and other policy recommendations to articulate priorities for babies and their families. We will create a comprehensive vision and annual agenda that includes new legislation and budget requests. We will move this agenda with various stakeholders, other child advocacy groups, and county, state, and federal policy makers.

Framework: The Policy Leadership Circle will develop its agenda using the cross disciplinary framework adopted by many groups to capture the comprehensive needs of infants, toddlers and their families.



Coordinated Systems and Supportive Communities