

Understanding the Value of ZERO TO THREE's Critical Competencies and Mathematica's QCIT

High-quality early learning experiences can set a foundation for young children's success in school and in life. Especially when the early childhood education workforce understands how to optimize children's development and can effectively measure the quality of their interactions in early childhood settings.



The ZERO TO THREE Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators™ (Critical Competencies) are specialized competencies that provide clear, concrete descriptions of specific teacher behaviors and interactions known to support critical areas of infant and toddler development and learning.

- Complimentary efforts designed to strengthen, clarify and provide structure and resources to the early childhood education field
- Both designed specifically for child care and early education programs serving infants and toddlers; center-based and family child care homes
- Both consider cultural and linguistic diversity
- Both align with and complement early childhood professional criteria and/or evidence-based frameworks, such as the Head State Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF)
- Both are for those who support early childhood education programs and educators.

Infant-toddler educators...

Develop

Critical competencies to support infants' and toddlers':

- Social-emotional development
- Cognitive development
- Language and literacy development

Adult educators (coaches, trainers, faculty), program and system administrators...

Gain

- The skills and resources needed to train and prepare the infant-toddler education workforce on the Critical Competencies.

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Mathematica's **Quality of Care for Infants and Toddlers (QCIT)** is an evidence-based observational measure of the quality of early childhood educator and caregiver interactions with infants and toddlers.

Program administrators, researchers, evaluators, and coaches...

Measure

How caregivers and teachers responsively support infants and toddlers in the following areas:

- Social-emotional development
- Cognitive development
- Language and literacy
- Physical health and safety

Gain

- Insights into strengths and areas for growth in caregiver practice to guide coaching, professional development, and program improvement.

mathematica.org/solutions/qcit

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