



Infant Toddler Consortium

SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING QUALITY CARE FOR BABIES

What Makes Infant Toddler Consortium Different

The Infant Toddler Consortium is an exciting, grassroots organization working to support and promote quality care for infants and toddlers statewide through multilingual/multicultural training, public education and advocacy. Founded in 1986 by a group of interdisciplinary professionals from child care, child development, health and mental health, early intervention and special needs, and Child Care Licensing, the Consortium believes that every baby deserves quality care. Quality care for infants and toddlers, as supported by research and experience, is determined by: environments that are small, nurturing, safe and healthy; caregiving as an extension of, and that provides support for, the family; knowledgeable and consistent caregivers; and training that is practical, accessible, and culturally and linguistically appropriate.

The Consortium was formed by a group of Bay Area professionals who began by offering a semi-annual conference dedicated to providing information and support to the caregivers of our youngest children. Over 22,000 people from early childhood and parent organizations and communities statewide have attended the 10 conferences the Consortium has offered. In 1994, the Consortium enlarged its scope of service from a conference-only group to a membership-based organization also offering training and workshops. Today, our membership consists of over 2,000 caregivers, parents, trainers, child advocates and other community members statewide committed to quality care for infants and toddlers.

In 2002, a collaborative group of infant toddler agencies, including PITC West Ed, UC Davis, Sonoma State University (Beginning Together), Child Care Resource & Referral Network, and Infant Toddler Consortium, held a series of meetings to discuss statewide training needs focused on infant toddler care. This collaborative group identified a number of statewide training activities that are critically needed to ensure that individuals who have low literacy or limited English skills, and are currently working as an infant toddler caregiver in centers, family child care homes, or in license exempt care, have an entry point into the more formal statewide child care training system. It was agreed that:

- **Support and training for caregivers has been proven to be one of the key elements of quality care delivery.**
- **Many of these providers are unconnected to the complex statewide CDD-funded training system designed to provide training for infant toddler caregivers.**
- **These caregivers have a crucial need to be welcomed into supportive settings where they can learn through discussion, along with other providers in their native language.**

We need those caring for our youngest children to be our best trained workers as an investment in our future. There is a compelling need for these caregivers to be connected to appropriate training, professional networks, resources, and information focused on quality infant toddler care that is tailored to their native language and ability to learn. This is the need that the Infant Toddler Consortium, along with others, is working to meet. What makes the Consortium different is that it's training model is specifically designed to provide an entry point to the continuum of training and facilitated discussion already funded through CDE.

Infant Toddler Consortium has a long history of providing grassroots community-based support for families, parents, grandparents and caregivers of infants and toddlers. The organization is widely known throughout the Bay Area and the state for its leadership and commitment to quality care of our youngest children. The organization's linguistic and cultural focus, ability to provide training in multiple languages, and ability to train at a literacy level that allows a range of participants to build trust and learn, are unique.

If you would like to become a member of the Infant Toddler Consortium, send your tax deductible donation to:

Infant Toddler Consortium, a program of CIF of the San Francisco Foundation
5236 Claremont Avenue
Oakland, CA 94618

Thank you for your support!