

## HOW CAN I JOIN THE INFANT/ TODDLER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT?

Programs who want to become involved in the Infant/Toddler Enhancement Project must meet the following requirements:

- ◆ One Star Plus or 2 Star Program
- ◆ Currently receiving no other support services
- ◆ Possess a current contract with OKDHS Oklahoma Child Care Services to receive Oklahoma Child Care Subsidy
- ◆ Have a minimum of 8 infants and toddlers enrolled in your child care program

If you do not meet these requirements, you may still contact your local Infant / Toddler Consultant for general early childhood information and assistance.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

For More Information Please Contact



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## Infant/Toddler Enhancement Project

## THE NEED FOR HIGH QUALITY INFANT/TODDLER CARE

The first three years in a child's life are the most critical. During this age, a child's brain develops and grows at a rapid rate. Positive experiences during this time help increase a child's brain development and emotional attachment. Negative experiences slow a child's development and emotional attachment.

What do these important facts have to do with child care? Currently, there are more than six million infants in toddlers in some form of child care. Often a child under the age of three spends more of their awake time in child care than at home. This makes a child care provider's role of vital importance to the child's social-emotional development and health. As a result, the quality of care directly affects the well-being of today's children.



## WHAT IS THE INFANT/TODDLER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT?

The Infant/Toddler Enhancement Project is designed to provide technical assistance and resources to child care providers on Infant and Toddler issues from Infant/Toddler Consultants. Child care providers who are selected for the project receive six months of enhanced technical assistance from a professional Infant/Toddler Consultant. In addition to these services child care providers receive up to 20 hours of Tier I training as recognized by OKDHS Oklahoma Child Care Services and the Oklahoma Reaching for the Stars Program. These training and technical assistance is free of charge.



## WHAT IS AN INFANT/TODDLER CONSULTANT?

An Infant/Toddler Consultant is a professional who works with child care centers and homes to recognize and promote quality infant/toddler care.

The Consultant works with the staff, often in the classroom, to help make the child care environment healthy and safe for children as well as promote healthy teacher-child interactions. In addition to technical assistance in the classroom, the Consultant is available to give assistance by phone, e-mail, and to conduct workshops. The Consultant can assist parents, staff, and directors with infant/toddler issues such as:

- ◆ Reducing Outbreaks of Illnesses
- ◆ Staff/Child interactions
- ◆ Developmentally Appropriate Activity
- ◆ Infant/Toddler Development
- ◆ Parent Education
- ◆ Environment
- ◆ Children with Special Needs
- ◆ Infant/Toddler Health and Safety
- ◆ Links to Community Resources

