

# Florida Infant and Toddler Initiative

## Executive Summary



### Strategic Training Plan for 2003-2005

### *Coordinating Training for Florida's Early Childhood Professionals*

*Prepared by the Florida Children's Forum  
September, 2004*

*Sponsored by the A.L. Mailman Foundation*



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**A.L. MAILMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION**

*Enhancing the ability of families and communities to nurture their children*

Sponsored by the A.L. Mailman Family Foundation

## OUR Vision...

A coordinated system of training and technical assistance to expand, enhance and improve the quality and provision of infant and toddler care in Florida.

# OUR Purpose and Goals...

The purpose of this initiative is to identify the training needs of Florida's infant and toddler early childhood teachers, review the training that is currently available, develop an Infant-Toddler Strategic Training Plan, coordinate the training delivery, and to establish a communications network and coordinated calendar of training. To guide the work of the initiative identification of long-term goals and strategies that require remediation to the early care and education system are presented below.

Mutually beneficial goals were developed from the identification of training gaps and critical considerations for training related to infant and toddler development and care.

**Goal 1-Communication.** Increase communication capabilities among early childhood leaders, advocates, researchers, trainers, and providers in relation to infant and toddler development and care.

**Goal 2- Coordination.** Work collectively to train directors, technical assistance providers, and early childhood professionals to increase skill and knowledge and enhance the quality of early childhood programming statewide.

**Goal 3-Knowledge.** Reach consensus on critical aspects of infant and toddler development and care, as well as core knowledge competencies.

**Goal 4-Assessment.** Identify and educate professionals on reliable assessment tools to enhance quality of infant and toddler development and care.

**Goal 5-Research.** Engage in research directly related to the education, care and development of young children.

**Goal 6- Standards.** Develop guidelines for quality training including standards and competencies for trainers and core knowledge competencies for early childhood professionals.

**Goal 7- Advocacy.** Create and utilize traditional and non-traditional messages with legislators and policy makers to ensure that infant and toddler care is forefront for early care and education policies and programs.

## Strategic Action Plan

The first goal of communication has been addressed as the initial work of the Florida Infant and Toddler Initiative. Improving communication among early education and care professionals is a fundamental first step to improving the professional development opportunities relative to infant and toddler development and care.

**Communication. Increase communication capabilities among early childhood leaders, advocates, researchers, trainers, and providers in relation to infant and toddler development and care.**

### Strategies

- Develop an infant/toddler webpage for the FCF website, including: a training calendar, links to national associations and state organizations, trainer database, fact sheets related to infant and toddler development issues, research/policy briefs that synthesize national and state research related to infant and toddler development, and the *Infant and Toddler Training Strategic Plan*.
- Develop an infant/toddler listserv to issue communication amongst the trainer community in Florida that will include: training announcements, research articles, national news, and other related information. Trainers will be able to use this listserv to communicate with one another on all infant/toddler issues.
- Develop a marketing strategy for announcing the availability of the above mentioned items.

## Long-term Goals and Strategies

In the first phase of the *Florida Infant and Toddler Training Initiative* the advisory committee identified goals and implemented action steps related to the goal of increased communication strategies. Goals related to coordination, advocacy, knowledge, assessment, research and standards will comprise the future work of the advisory committee, identified partners, and stakeholders of infant and toddler development and care. As our work continues, the *Florida Infant and Toddler Strategic Training Plan* will be revised accordingly. This is a working document, charting the coordination of service delivery related to infant and toddler professional development issues.

As we continue coordination efforts for professional development opportunities related to infant and toddler care and development in Florida, we welcome contributions and support from early childhood professionals. With a unified effort, we will succeed in our ultimate goal of providing high quality infant and toddler care for all children and families in Florida.

