



EARLY LEARNING

Improving Early Childhood in the District of Columbia's Wards 7 and 8

As research repeatedly underscores, the first three years of a child's life shape every year afterward. That's why the Foundation's Early Learning work supports children's healthy development and learning prior to entering pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. Our goal is to increase the number of high-quality early learning seats – which promote cognitive, physical and social/emotional development – for infants and toddlers in the communities we serve.

Our Partners

The Birth-to-Three Policy Alliance involves 20 of the District of Columbia's leading children's policy, advocacy and service nonprofits. Together, we are working to increase access to high-quality, comprehensive early childhood services and supports for infants and toddlers and their families, and to ensure that the systems serving young children and their families – early learning, health, nutrition, mental health and family support – work in a coordinated fashion to improve outcomes for these children.

Our Early Learning team also provides training and technical assistance to help early learning providers deliver evidence-based infant and toddler care (including crucial home visitation and mental wellness services), increasing the availability of community-based supports for these children, and investing in infrastructure to help high-quality providers expand.

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is one of our critical partners, and through our public/private partnership, we work together to support quality early childhood development programs in the District.



Our Progress

- Launched the Birth-to-Three Policy Alliance in early 2016
- Support policy advances for infants and toddlers in the District
- Formed a public/private partnership with OSSE, collaborating on projects such as:
 - Expanding the District's Quality Improvement Network (QIN), an innovative effort established in 2015 to expand adoption of Early Head Start quality standards for infant and toddler early care and education
 - Developing and launching Early Childhood Share DC – an online resource-sharing platform, developed by CCA for Social Good, that serves early care and education professionals in the District
- Support family engagement by providing Parent Café training – a nationally recognized and conversation-driven model developed by Be Strong Families – to mitigate the negative impacts of trauma and strengthen families
- Provide Environmental Rating Scale system supports to help the District implement its redesigned Quality Rating Improvement System (Capital Quality)
- Develop and provide training and technical assistance to program administrators and birth-to-three educators to help child development centers and family child development homes meet standards for high-quality early learning
- Expand home visiting services and implement new approaches to pediatric primary care to meet the health and mental wellness needs of infants, toddlers and families in Wards 7 and 8

LEARN MORE

For additional information on our work and initiatives, visit bainumfdn.org and explore these sections of our website:

- **WHAT WE DO**
- **NEWS AND UPDATES**
- **BLOG**

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