

The Safe Babies Approach

Safe Babies, a program of ZERO TO THREE, meets the needs of babies and toddlers under court jurisdiction by implementing a team-based approach, rooted in the science of early childhood development, to ignite collective action across states and communities.

IMPACT: Safe Babies focuses on the urgent developmental needs of young children during all planning and decision-making to strengthen early relationships with parents and caregivers and to create safe, stable, and nurturing environments for babies and toddlers.

The Safe Babies approach is guided by five areas of focus, with the needs of babies and their parents at the center. The approach works concurrently, at both the **Child and Family Level** and the **State and Site Level**, to ensure healthy childhood development while impacting long-term capacity building.

Continuous Quality Improvement

Driving and sustaining best practices to foster reflection instead of reactivity, allowing the space for families and professionals to grow, adapt, and change based on effective data and evaluation

Interdisciplinary Collaborative and Proactive Teamwork

Ensuring families' individualized needs are addressed by promoting coordination across communities to find creative solutions and remove structural barriers that perpetuate discriminatory processes and inequities



Enhanced Oversight and Collaborative Problem-Solving

Enhancing judicial oversight with more frequent court hearings and engaging families as partners guided by respect, kindness, and compassion

Expedited, Appropriate, and Effective Services

Ensuring services for babies and their families are timely and comprehensive while respecting their lived experiences and the intergenerational effects of social, racial, and health inequities

Trauma-Responsive Support

Responding to trauma with a healing approach while recognizing the resilience of parents and understanding the lifelong, systemic social and health inequities facing some families with young children