

# NC Infant-Toddler Quality Enhancement Project

## Infant Toddler Continuing Education Units (CEU)

**All trainings align with North Carolina Foundations for Early Learning and Development.**

**Note:** Those participants receiving CEUs can also count these hours as DCDEE training credits. Each event described below is a .5 CEU = 5 DCDEE contact hours.

### ***Linking NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development to Curriculum Planning for Infants and Toddlers***

Do you want to understand how to align your infant and toddler activity plans with the Foundations for Early Learning and Development? Then this CEU course is for you. This five-hour course will provide participants with an introduction to the Foundations, help you navigate your way through the document and identify strategies that support children's development and learning. Participants will spend time observing children in their classroom setting to create intentional activity plans that align with the five developmental domains of development. Participants are encouraged to bring a copy of NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development and a blank copy of the activity plan you use in your program. (DCDEE 2,3,7,9)

### ***Creating a World of Learning by Understanding the Individual Growth and Development of Infants and Toddlers***

Young children learn best when they are surrounded by a world of learning opportunities. Join us to see the profound effect their own unique way of approaching these early experiences has on their development and motivation to learn. You will gain an awareness of how other factors such as culture, temperament and ability levels also affect a child's learning and development. Time will be spent on identifying effective strategies that enhance your role in fostering each child's optimal growth and development. We are going to build our knowledge on these concepts using the developmental goals for infants and toddlers and the framework of developmentally appropriate practice. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Listening and Talking, Activities, and Interaction and NCFELD Domains: All. (DCDEE 2, 3, 7, 8)

### ***Planning With Purpose: Rethink Your Process to Meet the Individual Needs of Infants and Toddlers***

It is true what they say, children learn through play. But how do you know that you are planning the right play experiences for each child's needs? Come explore the steps to successful planning that will give new purpose to your process. We will uncover why creating activity plans is an important part of being an intentional teacher. Discover how to use your observations of children to plan experiences that when flexible and adaptable impact each child's current and future skills and abilities. Leave with the understanding that being purposeful in your planning is the best way to support the development and learning of each infant and toddler in your care. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Space and Furnishings, Listening and Talking; Activities, Interaction, Program Structure and NCFELD Domains: All. (DCDEE 1, 8, 9)

### ***Forming First Relationships: Using Respectful, Responsive and Reciprocal Practices with Infants and Toddlers***

Starting at the earliest moments, relationships are being formed. These first relationships are the crucial foundation of children's ability to learn. How do you get to know the children and families in your care? Do you spend time with children and their families learning from and about each other? Focusing on the Nurturing and Responsive Relationships level of the Center on the Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) Pyramid Model, we will discover specific strategies to foster social and emotional wellness in infants and toddlers. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Listening and Talking, and Interactions and NCFELD Domain: Emotional and Social Development. (DCDEE 3, 4, 8)

### ***Designing High Quality Infant Toddler Care Environments***

In some settings, you feel relaxed, comfortable, and free to open up and be yourself. In other places you feel formal, stiff, and a little on guard. In thoughtfully planned environments, children feel a sense of belonging and security. The child's care environment conveys messages about what is okay and what is not, what is expected or allowed, and what is encouraged. We will explore the second level of the CSEFEL Pyramid Model in order to understand how to design high quality environments to meet the needs of infants and toddlers. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Space and Furnishings, Listening and Talking, Activities and Interactions and NCFELD Domain: Emotional and Social Development. (DCDEE 1, 3, 5, 8)

### ***Increasing Quality with the ITERS-R: Today and Every Day!***

This CEU course presents an in-depth review of the Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale subscales and indicators. Lecture, activities and discussions will help you better understand the reasons behind the ITERS-R requirements. Learners will engage in group discussions and activities that explore how to best support infant toddler development and learning using an appropriate tool designed to measure quality. Learners will gain confidence in their ability to provide high quality early learning experiences for infants and toddlers. Learners are encouraged to bring a copy of the spiral bound Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised edition. (DCDEE1, 2, 3, 5, 8)

### ***Creating Conversations: Supportive Strategies for Infant/ Toddler Language Development***

Ever wonder how to encourage children's language development? Are you sometimes worried that a particular child may have a language delay? Do you want to know how to strengthen your strategies to support language and early literacy development in your classroom? Come learn how important language and early literacy experiences are in the first three years and how to create a culture in your program that supports language and literacy development through interactions, experiences, environment and family involvement. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Listening, Talking, Interactions, and NCFELD Domain: Language Development and Communication. (DCDEE 2, 4, 7, 8)

### ***Learning is Happening Right Before Your Eyes: Seeing and Supporting Infant and Toddler Cognitive Development***

Many adults still think of babies as helpless and simply a "clean slate". In fact, if you watch infants and toddlers closely, you will see that in almost every waking moment they are engaged in thoughts and actions of discovery and learning. These thoughts and actions are the complex learning processes and abilities that we will discuss as we define "cognitive development". We will further describe cognitive development in terms of six different types of discoveries infants and toddlers make when they explore and experiment with the things and people in their world. Opportunities to apply your knowledge of these discoveries will help you see the learning that is happening as infants and toddlers are developing cognitively. In the end, you will leave with some strategies and experiences you can use daily to support infant and toddler cognitive development. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Space and Furnishings, Listening and Talking; Activities, Interaction, Program Structure and NCFELD Domain: Cognitive Development. (DCDEE 2, 3, 7, 8)

### ***Health and Safety for Infants and Toddlers***

This .5 hours CEU course meets the NC Child Care Rule for Health and Safety Training Requirements for #9 Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma (SBS/AHT) #2 Administration of Medication, #1 Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases in Child Care and for #5 Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Emergencies Resulting From a Natural Disaster, or a Man-Caused Event. This course will focus on warning signs and prevention strategies for shaken baby syndrome, NC Child Care rule and the forms that are required to be completed before giving medication, the prevention and control of infectious diseases in child care settings and the stages of emergency preparedness and response. (DCDEE 1)

## Infant Toddler Training Events

**Note:** DCDEE contact hours for these events typically range from 1.5 to 4 each. Each are 2 hours unless noted.

### ***Supporting Developmental Monitoring and Screening in Early Care and Education Settings***

We know that monitoring and screening in early childhood early care and education settings is critical to identifying children at risk for developmental delays. What is less known is how programs use developmental monitoring and screening tools and ways caregivers talk with families about their children's growth and development. This training will help participants understand the differences in developmental monitoring and screening and why they are so important to children and families. Participants will learn how they can track and celebrate children's milestones and strategies for collaborating with families on supporting children's healthy growth. You can play an essential role in our state's early intervention efforts!

(DCDEE 7, 9)

### ***What Every Baby Needs***

Everything in a baby's world happens in steps and stages. It is important to appreciate each stage as it occurs and provide the support and guidance needed to allow a successful journey through each one. This training will offer suggestions of what types of materials support learning at the different stages. You will gain insight on the benefits of providing babies with ample time and space to master a skill before moving on to start practicing a new one and will explore some of the drawbacks of intervening unnecessarily. With each mastered skill, babies are discovering more about their bodies, the world around them and how the two work together. These skills are the foundations that they will carry with them throughout their life and across all domains of learning. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Space and Furnishings, Activities and Program structure. (DCDEE 1, 2, 3, 7)

### ***Exploring Social Emotional Development within the Context of Relationships (2-2.5 hours)***

Through supportive relationships, infants and toddlers develop a sense of trust, learn how to interact with others, and how to eventually express empathy. Strong, nurturing relationships are key to healthy development for infants and toddlers. This professional development event will explore social emotional development within the context of relationships. Participants will learn how the process of getting in tune with children allows providers to offer responsive care, which in turn helps infants and toddlers form secure relational attachments. Secure and responsive relationships help young children to develop a strong foundation from which they can explore their environment.

(DCDEE 3, 7)

### ***Infant and Toddler Developing Social Emotional Skills (2-2.5 hours)***

Children begin developing social emotional skills from infancy. Understanding how to support infant and toddler development during this period is crucial to their overall well-being. This professional development event explores the developing social emotional skills of infants and toddlers. Participants will learn to define and describe social emotional development, identify key social emotional skills that contribute to school readiness, and gain richer insight into strategies that support social emotional development for infants and toddlers. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Listening and Talking and Interactions. (DCDEE 3, 7)

### ***Caregiving Routines: A Major Component of the Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers***

What does the word "curriculum" mean to you? If teaching skills and planning projects are the first ideas that come to mind, then this training event will open your eyes to a new way of thinking about infant-toddler "curriculum". Infant and toddler teachers spend a large part of the day engaged in routine caregiving responsibilities. These are key learning times! Participants will understand why routines are essential to the "curriculum" and discover strategies to carry out daily routines that deepens the teacher-child relationship and promote infant and toddler development. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Personal Care Routines, Listening and Talking, Interactions and Program Structure. (DCDEE 2,3,4,7)

### ***Language Development and Communication in Infants and Toddlers: What Are They Talking About?***

It starts with crying, cooing, and babbling, and then you finally hear it, their first words! Sharing those language milestone moments can be some of our best experiences as infant and toddler teachers. During this workshop you will learn more about the development of language and communication for children birth to three; the research that links relationships to language learning in the first three years; and strategies to support development in this domain for all infants and toddlers, including dual language learners. In addition, participants will have a chance to discuss and share their ideas about the importance of talking to, singing with, and reading to infants and toddlers to foster a lifetime love of language and learning. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Personal Care Routines, Listening and Talking and Interactions. (DCDEE 8)

### ***Creating Outdoor Learning Environments for Infants and Toddlers: It's Not Called a "Playground" Anymore***

"Going Outside" is not just about *what is* out there but *what you do* when you are out there. It is in the news almost weekly; America's children are not getting enough exercise, which is becoming a serious issue for our children today. This training will help participants understand the benefits of taking children outside daily and provide suggestions on how to create spaces for infants and toddlers outside that support all areas of learning and introduce them to the natural environment. Finally, participants will discover what activities can be included in their outdoor spaces. This training provides information that supports ITERS-R subscales: Space and Furnishings, Personal Care Routines, Activities and Interactions. (DCDEE 1, 2, 8)

### ***Getting Started Improving Quality with the ITERS-R***

Would you like to gain a better understanding of the Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale? More importantly, discover how to use the ITERS-R as a self-assessment tool to maintain quality long after the assessment is over. This two-hour training provides an overview of the ITERS-R. This training will explain the organization of the seven subscales used to evaluate programs, as well as the scoring system and what programs can expect before, during and after an assessment. Participants are encouraged to bring a copy of the spiral bound Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised edition. (DCDEE 1, 5, 8)

### ***Infant and Toddler Early Literacy Learning***

Did you know that reading to babies sets the foundation for future reading and writing? Our youngest infants and toddlers develop these essential abilities through positive, caring interactions and immersion in literacy-rich surroundings. Join us as we explore ways to create these nurturing environments for children's early literacy experiences. We will discover six age-appropriate literacy skill "building blocks" for infants and toddlers, and develop strategies for supporting parents in sharing literacy in the home. (2,3,4,7)

### ***ITS-SIDS (2 to 4 hours)***

This required training explains all the parts of North Carolina's SIDS Law. Participants will review information about when and how to use the approved waivers, how to best place a baby in bed to sleep, and other "Best Practice" recommendations. During the workshop, participants will get the needed information to create a Safe Sleep Policy, updated research about SIDS, and local health and safety resources. Participants also will be walked through how to do an unresponsive infant drill and the reason for doing them regularly. (DCDEE 1)

### ***Infant Toddler Zone - PART I: Creating a Secure Infant- Toddler Environment (TOTAL 5.5hours)***

Caring for infants and toddlers can be extremely rewarding but also pretty challenging. These very young children are dependent on their caregivers to meet their individual needs that support early learning and development while at the same time being responsible for their health and safety. During Part I of this Infant Toddler Safety Series, we will identify ways to enhance supervision so that infants and toddlers in your program are safe during play activities. Clear guidelines are discussed that will keep children healthy, but also feeling secure as they explore their indoor and outdoor child care environment. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Space and Furnishings, Personal Care Routines and Activities. (DCDEE 1, 5)

### ***Infant Toddler Zone - PART II: Planning for Protection***

Caring for infants and toddlers can be extremely rewarding but also pretty challenging. These very young children are dependent on their caregivers to meet their individual needs that support early learning and development while at the same time being responsible for their health and safety. During Part II of this Infant Toddler Safety Series, you will leave feeling more confident about the key elements of planning for protection including keeping records and communicating with families and other staff. There will also be conversation about the importance of daily active physical play as well as the types of age appropriate materials to provide that allow for safe exploration in a secure world. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Space and Furnishings, Personal Care Routines, Activities and Program Structure. (DCDEE 1, 5)

### ***Infant Toddler Zone - PART III: Caring for Infants and Toddlers***

Caring for infants and toddlers can be extremely rewarding but also pretty challenging. These very young children are dependent on their caregivers to support early learning and development while at the same time being responsible for their health and safety. During Part III of this Infant Toddler Safety Series, certain positive guidance strategies are presented for you to use that allow infants and toddlers to learn about their world and what is expected of them. Enhance your understanding of how a caregiver's patient guidance facilitates the development of social and emotional competence of infants and toddlers, which is known to be linked to later school success. Also, discover ways to make the most of the daily routines such as feeding and diapering/toileting to support safe, healthy enjoyable experiences. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscales: Personal Care Routines and Interactions. (DCDEE 1, 5)

### ***Supporting Breastfeeding Families: A Guide for Early Care Providers***

Did you know that breastfeeding provides the healthiest start in life for infants, but children who are routinely cared for someone other than their parents are less likely to be breastfed? Learn more about the benefits and risks of breastfeeding and formula use. Identify barriers to breastfeeding in a child care setting and learn ways to reduce barriers and make your program more breastfeeding-friendly. Materials and resources provided by the Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute will be available to provide information and support for programs and families. Get started on a path to earn the Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Designation offered by the NC Department of Public Health. This training provides information that supports the ITERS-R subscale: Personal Care Routines. (DCDEE 1, 4)

## **Administrator Specific Professional Development Event**

### ***Best Fit, Recruiting and Hiring: Infant and Toddler Child Care Staff (3 hours)***

Recruiting and hiring infant and toddler staff can be a challenge! This training will provide expert information on recruiting and hiring child care staff with a focus on the needs of infants and toddler teachers. You will have the opportunity to learn creative methods in order to attract teachers that are the best fit for your organization. You will also learn best practices for the interview and hiring process. We want to help you take the stress out of hiring! (DCDEE 5)

### ***Best Fit for Hiring Infant and Toddler Staff (1.5 hours)***

Recruiting and hiring infant and toddler staff can be a challenge! This training will provide expert methods to help you determine the specific hiring needs of your organization. We will also discuss ways to attract teachers that are the best fit for your organization. We want to help you take the stress out of the hiring process!

### ***Recruiting and Hiring Infant and Toddler Staff (1.5 hours)***

Recruiting and hiring infant and toddler staff can be a challenge! This training will provide expert information on recruiting and hiring child care staff with a focus on the needs of infants and toddler teachers. You will also learn best practices for the interview and hiring process. We want to help you take the stress out of hiring!

**DCDEE nine topic areas:**

1. Planning a safe, healthy learning environment
2. Children's physical & intellectual development
3. Children's social & emotional development
4. Productive relationships with families
5. Program management
6. Professionalism
7. Child growth development
8. Inclusion of children with special needs
9. Observing & recording children's behavior