

The Quality Improvement Center for Research-Based Infant-Toddler Court Teams *Project Overview*



Quality Improvement Center
for Research-Based
Infant-Toddler Court Teams



The Quality Improvement Center for Research-Based Infant-Toddler Court Teams (QIC-CT) began in 2014 and is funded by the United States Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. The QIC-CT is operated by ZERO TO THREE and its partners, the Center for the Study of Social Policy, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and RTI International.

The QIC-CT is leading an effort in information-sharing and knowledge-building to help ensure that jurisdictions and states have the tools necessary to identify and address the underlying challenges faced by families in the child welfare system and to ensure that infants, toddlers, and families have access to high-quality, evidence-based services. Ultimately, this work can empower families to develop the skills necessary to support the health, safety, development, and stability of their very young children.

The project provides intensive training and technical assistance in demonstration sites to fully develop and expand research-based infant-toddler court teams based on the components of the ZERO TO THREE Safe Babies Court Teams (SBCT) approach. Supporting all stakeholders in the co-creation of a court model that is informed by early childhood development, grounded in research, and tailored to meet the needs and values of their community—whether local or statewide—can help sustain the tenure of an infant-toddler court team.

The purpose of the QIC-CT is to support implementation and build knowledge of effective, collaborative court team interventions that transform child welfare systems for infants, toddlers, and families.

QIC-CT Demonstration Sites

The QIC-CT demonstration sites are national learning laboratories for promoting evidence-based practices, increasing capacity for change, and supporting the healthy development of infants and toddlers. The following jurisdictions have been chosen as demonstration sites for the QIC-CT project:

- Milford Safe Babies Court Team, Milford, Connecticut
- New Haven Safe Babies Court Team, New Haven, Connecticut
- Florida Early Childhood Court Teams, State of Florida
 - Bay County, Florida
 - Hillsborough County, Florida
 - Pasco County, Florida
 - Pinellas County, Florida
 - South Okaloosa County, Florida
- Hawaii Zero to Three Court, Honolulu, Hawaii
- Polk County Safe Babies Court Team, Des Moines, Iowa
- Forrest County Safe Babies Court Team, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- Rankin County Safe Babies Court Team, Pelahatchie, Mississippi
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee Safe Babies Program, Cherokee, North Carolina

Review of Evidence-Based and Evidence-Informed Practices

The QIC-CT conducted a review of evidence-based and evidence-informed practices, programs, and interventions for infants, toddlers, and families with the goal of helping child welfare systems increase their capacity to incorporate evidence-based practices to strengthen parenting and promote healthy development for very young children in child welfare. To view the QIC-CT point-in-time tool and framework for selecting evidence-based practices, please visit: www.qicct.org/evidence-based.

The QIC-CT recommends the use of evidence-based and evidence-informed practices that are:

- Supported by evidence of efficacy and a strong theory of change with infants, toddlers, and families in the child welfare system;
- Guided by elements of early development and attachment between young children and their parents and caregivers; and
- Informed with family, community, and professional values.

Sustainability of Infant-Toddler Court Teams

The QIC-CT has developed a framework for sustainability that includes the key elements necessary to understand and leverage in order to sustain and institutionalize a new approach, practice, and/or delivery model. While infant-toddler court teams face unique opportunities and challenges that impact their strategies for sustaining the work, these resources help all sites to frame local thinking and sustainability planning. To view these resources, visit: www.qicct.org/sustainability.

QIC-CT Project Evaluation

The QIC-CT project evaluation examines the adoption, implementation, and maintenance processes by which the SBCT approach becomes institutionalized into practice. The evaluation team from RTI International is working with the demonstration sites on quantitative and qualitative data collection, such as a web-based survey submitted to stakeholders as well as secondary analysis of output and outcome data gathered through a web-based dataset. For more information on the evaluation of this project, please visit: www.qicct.org/evaluation.

Contact Us

The QIC-CT will disseminate best practices and findings, including identification of practices that are transferable to state and local child welfare systems across the United States. For all QIC-CT resources, please visit www.qicct.org.

For inquires on the QIC-CT, contact: QIC-CT@zerotothree.org.

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