

# ATTACHING QUALITY TO EVERYDAY CARE

Use these quality components to help build trust with infants and toddlers, so they can attach well to others



## New Jersey Infant/Toddler Credential

- An approved professional development pathway for early childhood educators to expand their knowledge of infant and toddler mental health, administered by the Coalition of Infant/Toddler Educators (CITE).
- Learn more at: <http://www.njcite.org>



## Healthy, Safe And Engaging Environments

- Key environmental concepts are to ensure safety, promote health, provide comfort, be convenient, be child-sized, maximize flexibility, encourage movement, and allow for choice.
- Learn more at: <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/itrg/Article%20Preparing%20the%20Environment.pdf>



## Individualized Care

- The program adapts to each child's unique rhythm and style to promote well-being and a healthy sense of self.
- Learn more at: [https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/itrg\\_individualized\\_care\\_pitc\\_rationale.pdf](https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/itrg_individualized_care_pitc_rationale.pdf)



## Inclusion

- Ensuring the benefits of high-quality care is available to all infants and toddlers with special needs through appropriate accommodation and support, so the child has full active program participation.
- Learn more at: [https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/itrg\\_inclusive\\_care\\_pitc\\_rationale.pdf](https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/itrg_inclusive_care_pitc_rationale.pdf)



## Knowledge of Child Development

- Child development involves the biological, psychological, and emotional changes that occur in human beings from birth to adolescence.
- Learn more at: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/index.html>



## Primary Care

- Each child is assigned to one special caregiver who is primarily responsible for that child's care.
- Learn more at: [https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/itrg\\_primary\\_caregiving\\_pitc\\_rationale.pdf](https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/itrg_primary_caregiving_pitc_rationale.pdf)



## Small Group

- A small group provides the personalized care that infants and toddlers need, supporting peaceful exchanges, freedom and safety to explore, and the development of close relationships.
- Learn more at: [https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/itrg\\_small\\_group\\_care\\_pitc\\_rationale.pdf](https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/itrg_small_group_care_pitc_rationale.pdf)

## Continuity of Care

- The primary caregiver and children stay together throughout the infancy and toddler years, providing the deep connection needed for quality child care.
- Learn more at: [https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/itrg\\_continuity\\_of\\_care\\_pitc\\_rationale.pdf](https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/itrg_continuity_of_care_pitc_rationale.pdf)



## Cultural Responsiveness

- Consistency of care between home and child care is extremely important, so caregivers need to be mindful and respectful of the child's culture in development of the child's identity and sense of belonging.
- Learn more at: [https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/itrg\\_culturally\\_responsive\\_care\\_pitc\\_rationale.pdf](https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/itrg_culturally_responsive_care_pitc_rationale.pdf)



## Development of Community Partnerships

- Engaged community partnerships are supportive relationships between programs and other community agencies.
- Learn more at: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/building-community-partnerships-overview.pdf>



## Open Family Communication

- Babies feel safe and secure when the adults in their lives work together on their behalf. Good family communication builds partnerships and consistency around babies' needs.
- Learn more at: <https://childcare.extension.org/provider-parent-relationships-7-keys-to-good-communication/>



## Building Competencies in Infant and Toddler Mental Health

- Recognizing that in times of increased stress or exposure to trauma, infants and toddlers require additional social and emotional support from parents, child care providers, family members, and sometimes, trained infant mental health professionals.
- Learn more at: <https://nj-aimh.org/endorsement>



## Reflective Practice

- The aim of reflective practice is to gain insight from one's own concrete experiences, and ultimately, use this learning to inform our own availability as a child care provider.
- Learn more at: <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/itrg/Promoting%20Reflective%20Practice.pdf>



**CITE**  
Coalition of Infant/Toddler Educators

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