

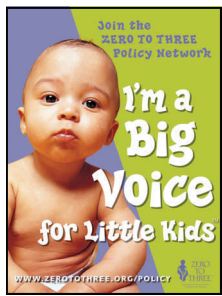
**ZERO TO THREE  
Policy Network  
Advocacy  
Developmental  
Milestone Calendar**

# JULY 2010

Summer may be the time of year for vacations and lazy days, but as advocates we need to be looking forward! The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which provides funds for low-income, vulnerable families, is up for reauthorization in September. Your advocacy challenge this month is to meet with your members of Congress during the summer recess and tell them how TANF can support healthy child development and encourage participation in the workforce.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



# JULY 2010 ADVOCACY DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONE

## **Take Action Now!**

Summer may be the time of year for vacations and lazy days, but as advocates we need to be looking forward! The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides funds for low-income, vulnerable families, is up for reauthorization in September. During the summer Congressional recess (August 9 – September 12), most members of Congress are back home in their districts. Meeting with your policymakers in the home district is often more beneficial than meeting with them in Washington, D.C. Your advocacy challenge this month is to set up a meeting with your U.S. Senators and/or U.S. Representative at their district office and tell them how TANF can support healthy child development and encourage participation in the workforce.

## **It's as Easy as 1-2-3**

1. Familiarize yourself with the [TANF program](#) and how it can support healthy child development for infants, toddlers, and their families.
2. Call and set up a meeting with your elected officials. Visit [Find Your Elected Officials](#) on the ZERO TO THREE web site and enter your zip code to identify your U.S. policymakers. When you click on their picture and then the “Contact” tab, you will find their district office address and phone number. Call the office to set up an appointment during the Congressional summer recess (August 9 – September 12).
3. Get ready for your meeting by preparing talking points that share your experience as an infant-toddler professional serving families affected by TANF. The [ZERO TO THREE TANF Policy Brief](#) includes policy recommendations and research summaries that might be useful in your preparations.

## **Resources about TANF and Meeting with Policymakers**

- The [ZERO TO THREE Policy Brief](#) gives a comprehensive overview of TANF and its relevance to early childhood poverty and well-being.
- The U.S. Administration for Children and Families has a [web page](#) with more details about the TANF program.
- For tips on how best to present yourself and your ideas to your member of Congress, check out the tools created by [About.com](#) and the [American Mathematical Society](#).

## **Tell Us About It!**

We are eager to hear about your experiences advocating for babies and toddlers, so that we can continue to improve the support we give you as an advocate. After you have accomplished your advocacy action, please tell us all about it by [clicking here](#).