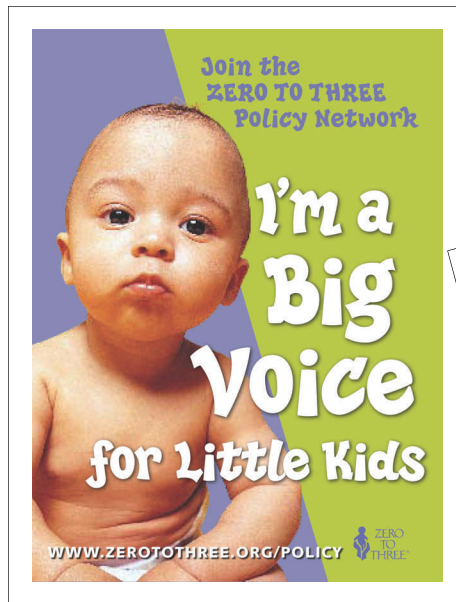


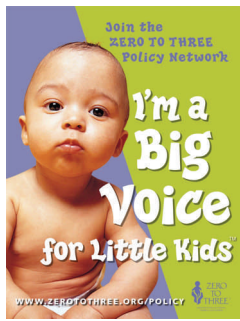
SEPTEMBER 2011



ZERO TO THREE Policy Network Advocacy Developmental Milestone Calendar

Summer is winding down, which means parents and professionals are gearing up for back to school. As families prepare for the upcoming school year, now is the perfect time to share what you know about early learning and literacy for infants and toddlers. **Your advocacy challenge this month is to educate colleagues and parents about the importance of early language and literacy for infants and toddlers.** ➔

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
It's Baby Safety Month				1 Congressional Recess	2	3
4	5 Labor Day Congressional Recess	6	7	8	9	10
11 Grandparents' Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



SEPTEMBER 2011 ADVOCACY DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONE

Take Action Now!

Summer is winding down, which means parents and professionals are gearing up for back to school. As families prepare for the upcoming school year, now is the perfect time to share what you know about early learning and literacy for infants and toddlers. **Your advocacy challenge this month is to educate colleagues and parents about the importance of early language and literacy for infants and toddlers.**

It's as Easy as 1-2-3

Below are a few suggestions for how you can get the word out about the importance of early language and literacy for infants and toddlers. Choose the option that works best for you, or use them all!

- 1.** Arrange a time to share [A Window to the World: Promoting Early Language and Literacy Development](#) with your colleagues. As infant-toddler advocates, you and your colleagues can then use this video to garner support for early learning policies that emphasize the important role of parents and professionals beginning at birth.
- 2.** Print out copies of ZERO TO THREE's early language and literacy resources and send them home with parents. The [early language and literacy brief](#) explains why it's important to invest in early language and literacy, and [Getting Ready to Read](#) provides strategies that parents can use to help their infants and toddlers develop into confident readers.
- 3.** Listen to [Building Connections to Support Literacy: Systems of Early Learning for Children Birth to Age 8](#) for examples of ways to build and align systems that support the birth to age 8 learning continuum. Keep this information in mind as you meet with state and federal policymakers to discuss the importance of early language and literacy development.

Resources

- [Infant and Toddler Language and Literacy Development](#), an issue brief from the Maine Children's Alliance, explains the importance of early literacy for infants and toddlers, and provides examples of best practices and successful programs.
- Check out these [resources](#) from the Ounce of Prevention Fund's Infant and Toddler Language and Literacy Promotion Project, which prioritizes teacher training and implements strategies that improve the language and vocabulary of infants and toddlers.

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](#).