1. **Federal funding for children's programs declined overall from 2010 to 2011 and is expected to continue on a downward trajectory over the next ten years.**

2. **The science of early childhood development tells us that during the first 3 years of life the brain undergoes dramatic development as the child acquires the ability to think, speak, learn, and reason.**

3. **A baby's early experiences shape the brain's architecture into a foundation for learning, health, and eventual success in the workplace.**

4. **Adverse early experiences—such as poverty or maltreatment—can weaken babies' brain development and follow them their entire lives, placing them at greater risk for later school failure and health problems as adults.**

### The Basics about Infants and Toddlers

5. **There are more than 12 million infants and toddlers (children under age 3) in the United States.**

6. **Although infants and toddlers represent 16% of the child population under age 18, they are particularly vulnerable because they are disproportionately in low-income and poor families.**

7. **Infants and toddlers in single parent families are more than twice as likely to be low-income as those in married couple families.**

8. **Overall, about 2.3 million infants and toddlers have at least one parent who works full-time, year-round, whose wages still can’t pull the family above the low-income level.**

9. **Research shows that poverty at an early age can be especially harmful, affecting later achievement and employment.**
   

10. **75% of infants and toddlers with a single parent are in low-income families.**
   

11. **35% of infants and toddlers with married parents are in low-income families.**
   

12. **31% of infants and toddlers with at least one parent who works full-time live in low-income families.**
   

13. **Nationally, almost half (48%) of children under age 3 live in low-income families (with an income less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)), including 25% that live in families in poverty (with an income less than 100% of the FPL).**
   

14. **In 2011, for the first time, more than half (50.4%) of our nation’s population under age 1 were minorities, up from 49.5% the previous year.**
   

15. **Black and Hispanic infants and toddlers are much more likely than White infants and toddlers to live in poverty.**
   

16. **63% of infants and toddlers in the United States are White; 14.4% are Black; 4.7% are Asian, Pacific Islander; 1.2% are American Indian, Alaska Native; 25.5% are Hispanic (persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race).**
   

17. **North Dakota and the District of Columbia have the largest percentage of children under age 3, representing 18% and 20% of the child population under age 18, respectively.**
   

18. **In both New Hampshire and Connecticut, children under age 3 make up approximately 14% of the total child population.**
   

19. **In Mississippi and Louisiana, 45% of children under age 3 live with a single parent; only 15% of Utah's babies live with a single parent.**
   

20. **In a majority of states, at least one in four very young children lives in poverty.**
21. **Within the U.S., Mississippi has the highest percentage of infants and toddlers living with families in poverty, at 35%. New Hampshire has the lowest percentage of infants and toddlers living with families in poverty, at 13%.**
   

22. **The U.S. ranks last for relative child poverty among 20 economically advanced countries with annual per capita income of more than $31,000.**
   

23. **38 countries performed better than the U.S. on their under age 5 mortality rate, a critical indicator of the well-being of children.**
   

24. **Among 34 countries, the U.S. ranks 31st for infant mortality rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births).**
   

### Good Health and Nutrition

25. **The Healthy People 2020 initiative sets national 10-year goals to improve health indicators and measure progress.**


26. **Low birthweight increases the risk of infant mortality as well as long-term disability and developmental problems.**


27. **In the majority of states in the U.S., between 8% and 9% of babies are born with low birthweight.**


28. **The highest percentage of low-birthweight babies (10-11%) are in three states in the south: Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.**

   The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, “Data Across States: Low-Birthweight Babies (Percent)-2008.”

29. **Health disparities are apparent in the variation of rates of low birthweight and preterm birth by racial and ethnic background. Black infants are more likely to have these characteristics than infants of other backgrounds.**


30. **Medicaid covers over one-third of all births in the U.S. each year.**

31. **Due in large part to Medicaid and CHIP, the national rate of uninsured low-income children of all ages fell from 28% in 1998 to 10.4% in 2010.**

32. **Insured children are three times more likely to have seen a doctor compared to uninsured children, and the need for health care during a child’s earliest years is more crucial than at most other times in life, as preventative care and screening can catch problems early.**
   Jennifer Sullivan, *No Shelter from the Storm: America’s Uninsured Children*. Families USA, 2006, [www.familiesusa.org](http://www.familiesusa.org). Percentage of all uninsured children under the age of 3 is calculated based on data provided in U.S. Census Bureau, “Table HIA-3: Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage.”

33. **12% of babies are born preterm. (Healthy People 2020 goal: 11.4%)**

34. **8.2% of babies have low birthweight. (Healthy People 2020 goal: 7.8%)**

35. **Only 75% of two-year-olds are fully immunized. (Healthy People 2020 goal: 80%)**

36. **8.3% of children under age 6 don’t have health insurance coverage.**

37. **26.4% of children under age 5 are at moderate or high risk for developmental or behavioral delays.**

38. **Young children whose families receive SNAP are less likely to be underweight or at risk for developmental delays.**

39. **16% of SNAP recipients are under age 5.**
40. **Nationwide, mothers who participate in WIC are 44% less likely to have low-birthweight babies and also experience fewer preterm births.**
   

41. **More than 10 million mothers, infants, and children receive WIC, of which 60.9% of all WIC participants are White, 19.3% are Black/African American, and 42% are Hispanic/Latino.**
   

42. **24% of WIC recipients are infants.**
   
   Connor, Bartlett, Mendelson, et al., *WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 2010*.

### Strong Families

43. **30% of infants and toddlers in low-income families moved in the previous year, while only 17% of infants and toddlers in families above low income moved in the previous year.**


44. **44% of children living with a grandparent who is primarily responsible for their care are under age 6.**


45. **27% of maltreated children are under age 3.**


46. **In almost every state in the U.S., more than 30% of families receiving TANF benefits have children under the age of 3.**


47. **Only 27 of every 100 families with children in poverty receive TANF benefits.**


48. **About 22% of households receiving heating assistance through LIHEAP include at least one child 5 years old or younger.**


49. **Young children in low-income households receiving LIHEAP are less likely than their counterparts to be undernourished, require emergency hospitalization, or incur developmental problems.**

50. **31% of children entering foster care are under age 3.**


51. **Infants who are under 3 months old upon entering foster care remain in care 50% longer than older children and are much more likely to be adopted than reunified with their family.**


52. **Once in care, infants are particularly vulnerable to delays in emotional, social, and cognitive development.**


53. **In all but 1 of the 50 states, at least 20% of the children entering foster care are under the age of 3.**


54. **In states like Illinois, Florida, Rhode Island, Texas, Nevada, Alabama, Arizona, and Oklahoma, over 30% of children entering foster care are under the age of 3.**


**POSITIVE EARLY LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

55. **In every state in the U.S., at least half of all mothers with infants are in the labor force.**


56. **South Dakota has the highest percentage of mothers who have an infant and are in the labor force, at 78%. In five other states, over 70% of mothers with infants are in the workforce: North Dakota, Rhode Island, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Arkansas has the lowest at 51%, still accounting for over half of all mothers with infants.**

U.S. Census Bureau, “Women 16 to 50 Years Who Had a Birth in the Past 12 Months by Marital Status and Labor Force Status: Table B13012.”

57. **Second only to the immediate family, child care is the setting in which early childhood development unfolds for many of these young children.**

National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development.*

58. **Research indicates that the strongest effects of quality care are found with at-risk children—children from families with few resources and under great stress.**

National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development.*
59. **Nationally, the cost of an infant’s child care for single mothers varies anywhere from 25% to 69% of their median income, and the cost for married couples ranges from 7% to 16%.**

60. **Both parents and early childhood professionals play a critical role in the development of a child’s early literacy skills—the skills a child develops through experiences with conversation, stories (oral and written), books, and print.**

61. **The interactive nature of the relationship between a child and his caregivers is essential to the developing brain. These relationships are critical as the brain forms the complex web of visual, language, motor, and social-emotional connections essential for later literacy learning.**

62. **63% of mothers with infants are in the labor force.**
   U.S. Census Bureau, “Women 16 to 50 Years Who Had a Birth in the Past 12 Months by Marital Status and Labor Force Status: Table B13012.”

63. **31% of children age 0-5 have parents who had to make emergency child care arrangements or change jobs for child care reasons.**

64. **48% of parents read to their 0-5 year-old each day.**

65. **More than half of White (57.4%), multiracial (54%) and children of other races (50.8%) have parents who read to them every day. This is compared to the much lower percentages for Black children (38.6%) and Hispanic children (28.2%).**

66. **59% of parents tell stories and sing to their 0-5 year-old each day.**

67. **Less than 4% of eligible infants and toddlers participate in EHS.**
68. **EHS plays an important role in children’s success in school, family self-sufficiency, and parent support of their child’s development.**


69. **30% of children receiving child care subsidies funded by the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) are infants and toddlers.**


70. **CCDBG is able to serve only 1 in 6 eligible children.**


71. **2.82% of infants and toddlers receive early intervention services under Part C.**