

III. QUALITY ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

B. Infant and Toddler Early Learning Programs

Describe the quality activities and services the coalition will implement to enhance infant and toddler early learning programs.

B. Infant Toddler Early Learning Programs

The coalition's Infant Toddler Program is named, Right from the Start (RftS). RftS operates within the Professional Development Department and focuses on quality through training, technical assistance and coaching for providers/teachers working primarily with children ages 0-3. All activities in the Infant Toddler Program align with the Child Performance Standards (Early Learning and Developmental Standards: Birth to Kindergarten), the Florida Core Competencies for Early Care and Education (Practitioners, Directors), and the Child Development Associate National Credentialing Program.

The following activities are supported through Right from the Start:

- **Infant Capacity Grants:** Grants are open to centers and family childcare homes. Recipients are awarded stipends to offset the cost of increasing infant capacity in their program. Coalition staff work with providers to meet their fiduciary obligations as they choose quality materials and/or identify necessary environmental upgrades. Grant awardees commit to participation in infant/toddler specific professional development, coaching and program assessment.
- **Scholarships/Credentialing:** The coalition provides scholarship assistance (leveraging TEACH dollars) to further the education of teachers and directors working with infants/toddlers. Scholarship opportunities are designed to move practitioners along the professional development pathway and include:
 1. **QUEST (National CDA prep program with an Infant/Toddler Endorsement):** 120 hours of coursework/coaching, professional portfolio development, and exam preparation.
 2. **RftS Formal Education Scholarships:** Teachers who receive scholarship will advance on the Professional Development Pathway. The continuum is as follows: (1) Infant Toddler Certificate (12 credit hours), (2) Florida Advance Early Care and Education Credential (36 credit hours), (3) Associates degree (Early Childhood), (4) Bachelors degree (Educational Studies), and (5) Masters degree (Curriculum and Instruction).
- **Infant Toddler Support Line:** This line is available to providers to request support with their infant and toddler program to increase quality, overcome challenges, and/or meet state and local requirements.

Please attach any supporting documentation as **Attachment III.B. No attachment**