

## The NC Birth-to-Three Quality Initiative Goes to Washington, D.C.!

In early December, the NC Birth-to-Three Quality Initiative (NC B-3QI) core management group was selected to attend the State Capacity Building Center's *Infant/Toddler Child Care Community of Practice Gathering: Building and Communicating Your Vision for Infants, Toddlers, and the Adults in Their Lives*, hosted by the Administration for Children and Families Office of Child Care in Washington, DC. North Carolina was one of a handful of states invited to this meeting, along with representatives from Texas, Kansas, Georgia, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Virginia. The purpose of this three-day event was to offer policy guidance, advocacy support, and tools for inclusion of children birth-to-three in Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program implementation. States were able to share the advancements that they had made in supporting the infant and toddler workforce as per CCDF program agreements throughout the past few years.



Community of practice participants, including NC B-3QI, developed and refined their visions and missions for their upcoming work, making use of the data they collect and learning content related to coaching, and healing-centered and relationship-centered care. Together with state representatives and our federal partners, we focused on connections we can and do make across infant and toddler systems. The NC B-3QI was delighted to share the many projects that we have piloted and brought to fruition over the last few years, including a new Practice-Based Coaching (PBC) framework for partnering with individual teachers and directors, the New Infant Toddler Teacher Orientation (NITTO) offered through DCDEE's Moodle, and our Cohort-Based Learning Communities (CBLCs) as a new modality for providing professional development across the state. To learn more about these offerings, [sign up for our newsletter here](#).



In addition to imparting our lessons learned and hearing about other states' efforts to increase workforce and child and family wellbeing, we spent time piecing together our action plan for the coming weeks, months and years based on [Human Centered Design \(HCD\) principles](#). HCD is a framework for constructing project offerings, training, or professional development resources that places the participant in the center of the planning process, drawing from their experiences, needs, and preferences. NITTO, PBC, and our CBLCs were drawn from this model and are adapted in a manner aligned with HCD. The NC B-3QI is excited to continue growing our connections across states, and to put into action our ideas around improving the quality of and access to professional development for the workforce.