



# PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Randolph Partnership for Children one of eight selected for Think Babies mini-grant

**ASHEBORO, N.C. (October 19, 2018)** — The NC Early Education Coalition (the Coalition) announced on Oct. 2 that Randolph Partnership for Children was selected as one of eight communities in North Carolina to receive Think Babies™ Community Advocacy Activity Mini-Grants in order to support community advocacy efforts focused on infants, toddlers, their educators, and their families.

The Partnership in its role as lead agency for the county's KidsReadyNC Initiative, will receive \$2000 to help create a local version of Boston Basics™, host roundtable events at local libraries for policymakers, parents and the general public to discuss issues impacting young children and families, and host a tour for policymakers and community leaders to showcase high-quality child care programs and facilitate conversations with parents and educators.

“The science is clear. The human brain grows faster between the ages of zero and three than at any later point in our lives, building the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health,” said Partnership Executive Director Lisa Hayworth. “On behalf of the 4,754 children in Randolph County between zero and three, we say no more baby talk. It’s time for action in our community so that we collectively can maximize the potential for each of our little ones, and the Think Babies mini-grant and the larger-scale work through the KidsReadyNC initiative are key first steps.”

Funding for the mini-grants was provided by the NC Early Education Coalition, with support from the ZERO TO THREE Think Babies™ campaign and the Pritzker Children's Initiative's National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers.

The mini-grants are a component of Think Babies™ NC. This statewide initiative seeks to ensure that North Carolina's young children, ages 0- 3, benefit from effective public policies, programs and funding to promote a solid foundation for what they need to thrive: healthy beginnings, supported families, and quality early care and learning experiences.



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Communities were invited to apply for a mini-grant to design a local activity to increase public awareness and policymaker support to address issues facing the state's youngest children, ages 0-3, their educators, and their families. The Coalition received 24 applications from organizations across the state.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to bring the Think Babies™ NC initiative to a local level," said Coalition Policy Director Michele Rivest. "We know that these committed advocates will raise awareness of the issues facing infants and toddlers, and together we will build a stronger network to help advance solutions in local communities and throughout North Carolina."

In addition to the Partnership, the following organizations are the recipients of the Think Babies™ Community Advocacy Activity Mini-Grants: Alliance for Children, Ashe County Partnership for Children, Montgomery County Partnership for Children, Partnership for Children of Johnston County, Rockingham County Partnership for Children, University of North Carolina at Greensboro and UNC Pembroke Foundation.

For more information about the mini-grants and the Think Babies™ NC initiative, please visit [nearlyeducationcoalition.org/think-babies](http://nearlyeducationcoalition.org/think-babies).

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**About the Randolph Partnership for Children:** Since 1999, the Randolph Partnership for Children (RPC), a non-profit organization, has made a positive impact on the lives of thousands of Randolph County children and their families. As the community's lead organization for young children and their families, RPC brings together diverse agencies, individuals, organizations and communities to ensure all children enter school ready to succeed. RPC is a United Way agency. For more information, visit [www.randolphkids.org](http://www.randolphkids.org).

### **About the North Carolina Early Education Coalition**

The North Carolina Early Education Coalition works to ensure that all children have access to high quality early care and learning experiences. Since 1990, the organization has highlighted the proven power of quality early childhood education by sharing information and resources with parents, professionals and policymakers. The NC Early Education Coalition is a proud partner in the national [ZERO TO THREE](#) Think Babies™ campaign and in the [Pritzker Children's Initiative's](#) National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers. For more information, please visit [www.nearlyeducationcoalition.org](http://www.nearlyeducationcoalition.org), [facebook.com/nearlyedcoalition](https://facebook.com/nearlyedcoalition) or follow [@NCEarlyEdCo](#) on Twitter.