



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

AGENDA ITEM: *Arizona Infant Toddler Developmental Guidelines, 1st Edition*

BACKGROUND: In the Spring of 2010, as part of an ongoing effort to build a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood system that ensures all of Arizona's children are ready for school and set for life, First Things First and the Arizona Department of Education Early Childhood Division convened a task force comprised of infant and toddler development experts, early learning providers and technical assistance consultants from the national Zero to Three organization to begin the development of the Arizona Infant Toddler Developmental Guidelines. Additionally, throughout the evolution of the document, several public forums were held in different areas of the state with a variety of stakeholders, to vet the document and hear diverse perspectives, comments, input and feedback prior to completion of the publication.

The Arizona Infant and Toddler Developmental Guidelines, like its companions, the *Arizona Early Learning Standards* (for all children 3 to 5 years of age) and the *Arizona Program Guidelines for Quality Early Care and Education* (for all programs serving children birth through Kindergarten) demonstrates the importance of shared responsibility and accountability in achieving positive outcomes for all children. The guidelines address five domains of development: social and emotional, approaches to learning, language and communication, cognitive, and physical and motor. The guidelines and information in this document stress the importance of collective efforts among families, early care and education professionals, health care professionals, family support providers, community members and policy makers in supporting the learning and development of young children.

With support of Arizona's State Advisory Council (SAC) grant, the Arizona Department of Education will lead dissemination of and training on the Guidelines for early care and education providers, beginning with Quality First coaches and providers, to establish quality expectations in the early care and education system and the foundations for professional development of early care and education providers. The Guidelines will also be posted on the First Things First web page.

RECOMMENDATION The CEO presents this document for information only.