



Infant and Toddler  
Policy Research  
Center at NIEER



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The Infant and Toddler Policy Research Center at  
the National Institute for Early Education Research

*Presents*

# Five Things We Know and Five Things We Don't Know, but Should, About Infant and Toddler Care in New Jersey

Technical Assistance Provided by Advocates for Children of New Jersey





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# Five Things We Know and Five Things We Don't Know, but Should, About Infant and Toddler Care in New Jersey

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1. Early Childhood is an important developmental period

# 1. Early Childhood is an important developmental period



The only organ not fully formed at birth



Positive & Negative Interactions in the first 3 years can have lasting effects

1. Early Childhood is an important developmental period
2. Quality Matters

## 2. Quality Matters

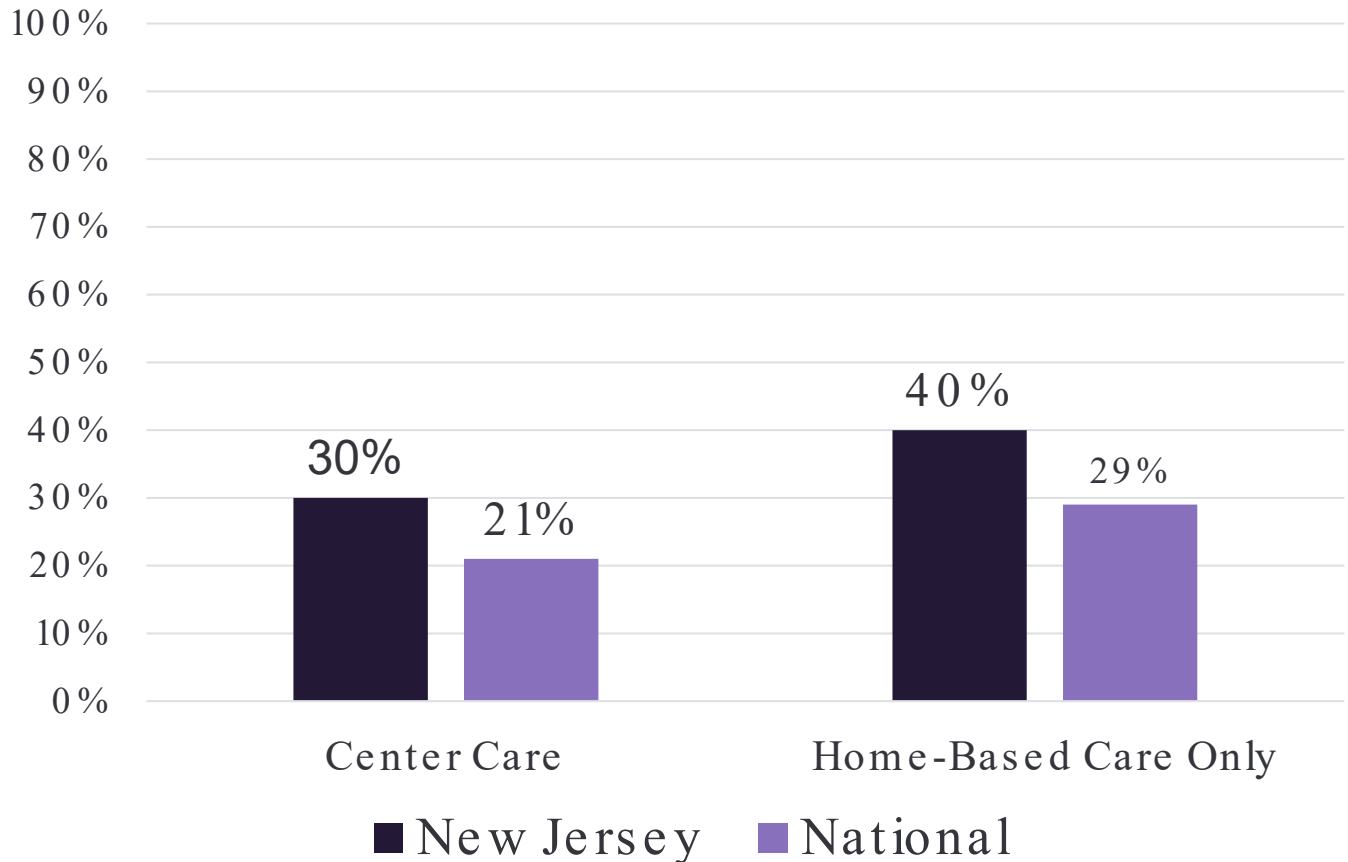
- Qualified & appropriately compensated teaching staff
- Professional development and coaching
- Strong ECE leadership
- Learning process: reciprocal, sensitive interactions
- Small group sizes & low ratios
- Continuity of care (within a week & across years)
- Extended -day, full-year available
- Parent engagement and collaboration
- Referral to support services, special education, health care, social services
- Continuous improvement process



1. Early Childhood is an important developmental period
2. Quality Matters
3. Use of Child Care by Infants & Toddlers is Higher in New Jersey than Nationally

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# 3. Use of Child Care by Infants & Toddlers is Higher in New Jersey than Nationally

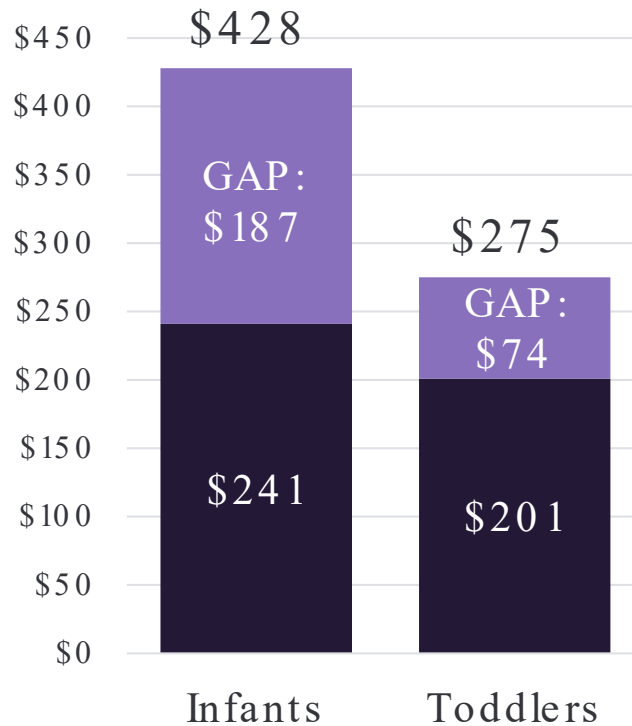


Source: Barnett, W.S. (2021). What We Know About Infant and Toddler Care in New Jersey. *Data Snapshot*. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research.

1. Early Childhood is an important developmental period
2. Quality Matters
3. Use of Child Care by Infants & Toddlers is Higher in New Jersey than Nationally
4. High Quality Infant & Toddler Education & Care is Expensive

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## 4. High Quality Infant & Toddler Education & Care is Expensive



■ Weekly Cost for High Quality

■ Weekly Subsidy

→ Quality education and care for infants and toddlers is **expensive**

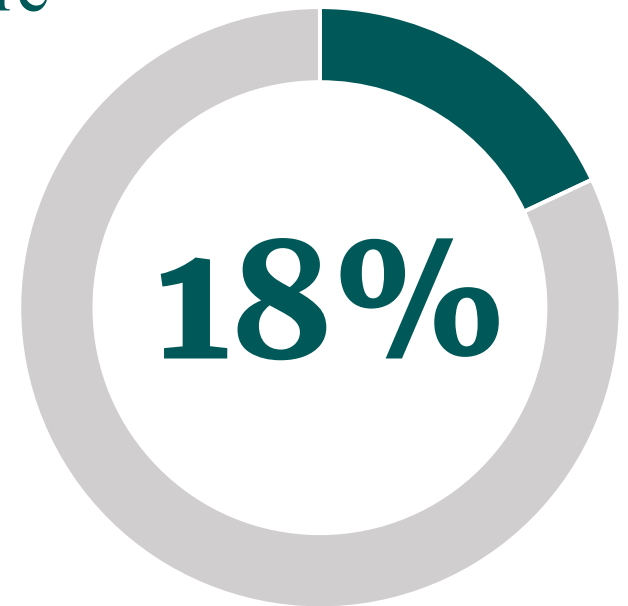
→ There is a **large gap** between subsidy amounts and what high quality care costs

1. Early Childhood is an important developmental period
2. Quality Matters
3. Use of Child Care by Infants & Toddlers is Higher in New Jersey than Nationally
4. High Quality Infant & Toddler Education & Care is Expensive
5. Not all Eligible Families Access Child Care Subsidies

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# 5. Not all Eligible Families Access Child Care Subsidies

## Only 18 % of Infants and Toddlers in NJ Eligible for a Child Care Subsidy Receive One





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## **Poll:** Which of these five things did you already know?



1. Early Childhood is an important developmental period
2. Quality Matters
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4. High Quality Infant & Toddler Education & Care is Expensive
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**Poll:** Which of these five things is the most important to learn more about?





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# Thank You!

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