New Jersey Babies Count 2018: Investing in New Jersey’s Future
Right From The Start NJ: Strength In Collaboration
The Nicholson Foundation

Changing Systems, Changing Lives
Adverse Childhood Experiences

[Diagram showing various ACEs and their percentages]
Why Early Experiences Matter

**Newborn Brain**
Average weight 333 grams

**2 Year Old’s Brain**
Average weight 999 grams

Dramatic Growth of Neuronal Architecture from Birth to Two
New Jersey by the Numbers

• > 310,000 children under 3
  • 35% in low-income households
  • 57% “minority” population
  • 69% with working moms
The 30 Million Word Gap

CUMULATIVE VOCABULARY

Age of Child (in months)

Hart & Risley, 1995
What can we do?
Comprehensive Approach

- Education
- Healthcare
- Oral Health
- Physical Environment
- Socio-Emotional Environment
Relationships

…for most children, the environmental factors that matter most have less to do with the buildings they live in than with the *relationships* they experience – the way the adults in their lives interact with them, especially in times of stress.

- Paul Tough, *Helping Children Succeed: What Works and Why*
New Jersey Babies Count 2018
A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers
Giving Every Child A Chance®