



Strolling Thunder New Jersey

### Get Involved!

ACNJ cannot do this work alone. We need families and service providers to be a voice for young children and advocate with us!

Visit [acnj.org](http://acnj.org) for all the ways you can get involved:

- Attend an advocacy training, where we'll equip you with the resources and tools to be a child's strongest ally and advocate.
- Share your story with us! Tell us about challenges you've experienced raising or working with infants and toddlers.
- Download our online advocacy tool kit and learn more about the "Birth-to-3" advocacy agenda.
- Sign up for our email alerts to stay up-to-date with our latest activities and calls for action.
- Follow us on social media @acnjforkids.



#### Contact Us

Phone: (973) 643-3876

Email: [advocates@acnj.org](mailto:advocates@acnj.org)

Giving Every Child A Chance ®

## Who We Are

### About Us

ACNJ's goal is to help all children grow up safe, healthy and educated so they can become productive adults, contributing to New Jersey's communities, securing our future and making the state a better place to live.

### About The Campaign

ACNJ is a lead partner in New Jersey's *Right from the Start* campaign and a proud partner of the national ZERO TO THREE *Think Babies* campaign, working to promote enriching early experiences and a strong foundation for development from the start.



### Connect with Us



[acnj.org](http://acnj.org)



**It's Time to  
Make Babies a  
Higher Priority in  
New Jersey!**



# Join the Campaign Today.

Visit [acnj.org](http://acnj.org)



## Join the Campaign to Let Our State Leaders Know: The Future Begins with Babies!

Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) is leading a statewide effort to ensure our state's leaders *Think Babies™* – our future depends on it!

We're putting "Birth-to-3" on the public agenda and bringing attention to what infants and toddlers need to thrive:

- Positive Early Learning Environments
- Strong Families
- Healthy Starts

### The Issues

- Quality, Affordable Child Care
- Paid Family Leave
- Family Support
- Healthy Social and Emotional Development



*for* **ADVOCATES**  
CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY

**Your voice matters.** Your story will bring to life the challenges babies and their families face.

**Read what people are saying about the issues:**

#### ■ Child Care

*"What I paid in child care was what it cost for me to go to college for a year!"*

*"There just are not enough facilities. Child care centers that serve the youngest children are under-resourced and having to make choices between quality and access for the community - that's a really tough choice to have to make."*

#### ■ Paid Family Leave

*"I was lucky enough to work for a fantastic organization that was really supportive, but I still had to go back to work while my baby was still in the NICU. He was born premature... [and] I shouldn't have had to do that."*

#### ■ Social Emotional Development

*"All of the daycares say, 'Well, we don't have the staff, we don't have the time, we don't have the money to deal with a special needs child.'"*

**Share your story by visiting [acnj.org](http://acnj.org)!**

## NJ Babies At a Glance

<b>102,000</b>	Number of babies born in New Jersey every year
<b>23%</b>	Percent of expectant mothers who receive late or no prenatal care
<b>66%</b>	Percent of babies with all parents in the workforce
<b>27%</b>	Availability of licensed child care for NJ infants and toddlers with working parents
<b>\$222</b>	Median weekly cost for center-based child care for an infant

Sources: ACNJ's two publications: *Babies Count 2018* and *No Room for Babies: Center-Based Infant-Toddler Child Care in Short Supply*

**The science is clear.** Our brains grow faster between the ages of 0 and 3 than at any other point in life. Those first few years lay a lasting foundation, affecting everything from classroom performance, to earning potential, to life expectancy.

When babies have nurturing relationships, positive early learning experiences and good nutrition, their neural connections are stimulated and strengthened, laying a strong foundation.

When babies don't get what their growing brains need to thrive, they don't develop as they should. This leads to life-long developmental, educational, social and health challenges.