

# ZERO TO THREE IN BERMUDA

WHAT FURTHER ROLE CAN PHILANTHROPY AND GOVERNMENT  
PLAY TO SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT?

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - MAY 2015**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Extensive research and evidence has clearly established that between birth and the fourth birthday (zero to three) are the most critical years of development for a child. This window of opportunity once missed, is difficult to impossible to recover.

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) landscape in Bermuda reflects a wide range of programmes and services from the Government, private and nonprofit sectors that target the zero to three population. Much is being done. However, optimum ECD delivery is strained by stretched Government services, dated infrastructures, fragmented approaches, insufficient financial resources and troubling social issues. The issue of poverty is a reality for many families.

Other factors that make the landscape even less conducive include: limited standards and regulations for childcare; and a high ratio of incarceration that reduces access to nurturing, especially from fathers.

Individuals interviewed for this report echoed the concerns identified from analysis of the landscape, programmes and services. Key concerns were around:

- » General lack of understanding about ECD in the community
- » Siloed and disjointed programmes and services
- » Lack of adequate qualified professionals
- » Quality care services not readily accessible to all
- » Sparse and unreliable local data collection

In spite of the challenges in the field, some bright spots do exist in all sectors. Exemplary programmes that stand out hold themselves to higher than required standards, implement theory based approaches and integrate evaluation systemically.

When compared to what we know works, **five critical gaps** were identified that limit the opportunity to shape the early experiences of children in Bermuda: Information and education; Regulations and policy; Access to affordable high quality daycare; Measurement and evaluation; and Advocacy.

This report concludes with recommendations for specific action around FOUR Strategic Priorities, proposed as pressing opportunities for funding:

1. Information and Education – stimulate conversations on ECD in the community and deliver information on available resources
2. Support Bright Spots – provide flexible funding to reinforce and enhance exemplary infant programmes and services
3. Incubate Signature Programmes – significantly expand and provide affordable access to one or more high quality daycare programmes
4. Policy and regulation – support the development of the infrastructure needed to coordinate an effective early childhood system across Bermuda

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Excerpts of this report are available as follows:

Executive Summary  
Key Findings  
Opportunities & Recommendations  
Full Report

For further details, please refer to:

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