



# Guttman Center for Early Care & Education

The Guttman Center for Early Care & Education at Bank Street is dedicated to partnering with communities of early child care professionals to positively impact the life trajectory of young children. The center provides a five-month, cost-free professional development program to caregivers of infants and toddlers and leaders of early child care programs.

## About the Program

In collaboration with the community, Bank Street has created a professional development program based on our deep experience and expertise in early childhood education and development and the expressed needs of day care providers. All educators of children between the ages of birth and three years old who are currently teaching in either a center-based program or family child care setting are eligible.

The five-month program provides:

- A foundation in early childhood development
- Strategies for creating environments that support the cognitive and social/emotional goals providers have for the young children in their care
- Support for working with families
- Networking opportunities and membership in a community of early childhood educators

The program does this through:

- A course that meets once a month at a central location within the community
- Learning experiences that are drawn from Bank Street's Infant and Family Development master's degree program and taught by Bank Street faculty
- One-on-one coaching with a trained Bank Street coach twice a month designed to help providers translate the material from the course into goals and strategies for improving their care and practice

## Our Impact

The program has led to significant, measurable results in the following key areas:

- Increased caregivers' knowledge of the developmental needs of their infants and toddlers
- Stronger relationships between caregivers and children in their care
- Stronger relationships between caregivers and the families they serve
- Increased caregivers' ability to create environments that respond to the developmental and educational needs of infants and toddlers

Participants of the program benefit in a number of ways, including:

- A certificate diploma from Bank Street College, which can be advertised on all marketing materials
- 20 hours towards their CDA or other professional development requirements
- Free access to resources offered through Bank Street's Graduate School of Education
- Free access to additional workshops offered through the center focused on topics like special needs, learning through play, and small business development

The program is also developing a curriculum and replicable model:

- Bank Street's research identified a scarcity of effective models with ongoing research on program improvement.
- The Guttman program is now in its third cohort and—with careful tracking and consistent investment—is creating a program that can be implemented and customized across the country.

## Building Capacity Together

Research shows that the most rapid cognitive and social/emotional development occurs in the first three years of life. However, caregivers of children from birth to age three have the least access of all educators to quality professional development. Caregivers in high poverty neighborhoods have even less access to these opportunities historically. Currently, there are over 3,000 educators of young children living and working in these environments in New York City. The Guttman Center for Early Care & Education recognizes the unique skills and passion that these providers bring to their work and seeks to address the gap in access to quality professional learning opportunities that lead to high-quality early childhood education.



## Our Approach

The Guttman Center for Early Care & Education is committed to improving the quality of early care and education in partnering communities by giving caregivers opportunities to make empowered decisions about their professional future. Through a combination of classroom practice, coaching, and hands-on training, practitioners gain assistance with what they identify as the most difficult parts of their job. Simultaneously, participants are part of a community of like-minded professionals committed to doing the work of educating very young children.

Over the next few years, we will seek to expand and serve multiple neighborhoods throughout New York City, ultimately building strong independent community learning networks to support high-quality infant and toddler child care options in each neighborhood.

