# The Baby TALK Model – Approach – Curriculum

## Mission

To positively impact child development and nurture healthy parent-child relationships during the critical early years

### Model

- **Framework for building a system**
- **Begins with universal screen of families of young children**
- **Relationship-based** approach to family engagement
- **Emphasis on identifying and serving the most at-risk**
- **Research-based** curriculum
- **Evidence-based** strategies for engaging and providing support

### Goals

- Building strong relationships
- Creating a system of support for families
- Supporting parental sense of competence
- Promoting healthy attachment
- Promoting development in all domains
- Reducing parental stress
- Promoting protective factors and resilience
- Promoting positive parent and child outcomes

### Origin

Baby TALK has been serving families with young children since 1986

### Key Methods & Approaches

- Nurturing families in support of optimal early childhood development
- Applying a developmental approach to family engagement
- Facilitating parent-child interaction
- Affirming parental competence
- Using active listening, reflection and strength-based strategies
- Building community connections

### Distinctive Features

- Proven history of identifying families with the greatest risk factors than other targeted programs of its kind
- Effective approach for professionals to identify at-risk families early and to implement supportive services
- Extensive protocols to guide effective encounters with families
- Flexibility to tailor protocols and curriculum based on the needs of families

### Target

- Expectant and parenting families with children birth through age 5
- Model application for a variety of Federal, State and Private funding streams

### Where is Baby TALK?

- Over 1200 trained professionals across 32 states
- Fully implemented Baby TALK programs in six states
- Baby TALK is a research-based and evidence-based model approved by Illinois State Board of Education and by DFSS for all center-based programming and Prevention Initiative home visiting
- Baby TALK is implemented in over 100 programs in Illinois

### Delivery Methods & Curriculum

- Home visiting, including comprehensive wraparound services
- Center-based programming for family engagement roles and classroom teachers
- 273 pieces of curricula to engage and reflect with families; 370 pieces to facilitate parent-child interaction