

# Celebrating Success: Professionals Graduate from Zero to Three 45-Hour Course for Infant-Toddler Educators

Press Release | 12.14. 2023



## MEDIA CONTACT

LaToya Riggins  
Better Futures Group

✉ [Send Email](#)

**Washington, D.C.** – [December 14, 2023] – Today, Divine Illumination Agency and Better Futures proudly announces the graduation of a cohort of dedicated infant- educators from the Zero to Three 45-Hour Critical Core Competencies course in the State of Maryland. This milestone marks a significant achievement for each graduate and underscores our commitment to providing high-quality professional development opportunities in early childhood education.

The Zero to Three 45-Hour Course equips educators with the knowledge, skills, and best practices necessary to support the healthy development and learning of infants and toddlers. Throughout the course, participants engaged in a comprehensive curriculum that addressed key topics such as infant-toddler development, responsive caregiving, building secure attachments, creating supportive environments, and partnering with families.

"We appreciate the opportunity to work with Dr. Carlena Vaden, CEO of Divine Illumination to co-facilitate this course for Early Childhood Educators in Maryland," said Dr. Robert Gundling, CEO of Better Futures. "The completion of the course provides evidence of the commitment of the graduates to the young children, their families, and their colleagues to provide a high-quality learning experience for the infants and toddlers they serve."

The graduation ceremony included recognition of each graduate's accomplishments, as well as testimonials from educators who have completed the course. Additionally, guest speakers shared insights on the importance of quality early childhood education and the profound impact educators have on the lives of young children and families.

The Zero to Three 45-Hour Critical Core Competencies course for Infant-Toddler Educators is part of the Maryland State Department of Education's ongoing efforts to elevate the standard of care and education for infants and toddlers by providing educators with the knowledge and skills they need to create nurturing and stimulating environments. Funding for the tuition of this course is provided by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

For more information about The Zero to Three 45-Hour Critical Core Competencies Course for Infant-Toddler Educators, visit: [betterfuturesdc.com/criticalcorecompetencies](https://betterfuturesdc.com/criticalcorecompetencies)

### **About Divine Illumination Agency**

Divine Illumination Agency seeks to equip teachers, educators, parents, administrators, professionals, etc. with skills to effectively and compassionately engage every student in the learning process. Committed to promoting the highest standards of quality in early childhood education, Divine Illumination Agency offers a range of training programs, resources, and services to empower educators and improve outcomes for young children and their families.

### **About Better Futures**

Better Futures, LLC is an early childhood education consulting firm based in Washington, DC with over 75 years of experience. They offer a full range of services and professional development to the early care and education market, with a client portfolio that includes government agencies, nonprofit organizations and community-based programs. Their growing portfolio of early care customers receive outstanding value, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and results-driven consulting based on a multidisciplinary approach.

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