



# What is Florida's Early Childhood Court?

Early Childhood Court is a child welfare problem-solving court serving infants and toddlers, striving for improved family outcomes using a national approach, with grounding in science and best practice standards.



## ECC is a Problem-Solving Court

Like all problem-solving courts, ECCs address the root causes of justice system involvement through specialized dockets, evidence-based treatment, judicial supervision, accountability, multidisciplinary teams, and a collaborative approach.



## Serving Infants and Toddlers

Early Childhood Courts, also referred to as "Baby Courts," serve children under the age of three who are involved in the child welfare court process and placed in out-of-home care, in accordance with the best practice standards. Children aged four and five may also be served.



## Striving for Improved Outcomes

The goal is to improve safety, permanency, and well-being by simultaneously focusing on healing both the parent and child to break the cycle of multigenerational trauma.



## Using a National Approach

Florida adapted Zero to Three's Infant Toddler Court Teams approach and emphasizes three key features: leadership from a trauma-informed judge, Child Parent Psychotherapy, and a multidisciplinary team led by a community coordinator.



## Grounded in Science

The Early Childhood Court approach includes practices based on scientific findings, and a court team trained in the science of early childhood development, brain development, attachment, trauma, and resilience.



## Grounded in Best Practice Standards

Florida Supreme Court approved best practice standards provide guidance for the judge and magistrate, the multidisciplinary team, child-parent therapy, social services, family time, target population, caseloads, and evaluation.