Zero to Five Montana is a statewide early childhood organization focused on increasing access to early care and education, supporting and strengthening families, uplifting voices, communities and small businesses. Our promise is to stabilize, innovate, and build the early childhood system in Montana so all families and communities can thrive.

**POLICY**

Working in partnership with communities, tribes, policymakers, employers, parents and an array of organizations, Zero to Five Montana promotes a nonpartisan agenda to advance early childhood policy strategies through innovative partnerships, collaboration and sustainable solutions.

Zero to Five Montana offers legislative tracking, policy research, and policy briefs as accessible resources to citizens in Montana.

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SOLUTIONS** - We convene stakeholders across the state to advance co-created early care and education goals through diverse cross-sector partnerships. Focus areas include child care, early education, infant & toddler programs, family economic supports, and more. Over the next year, we will be working to launch the first ever statewide Early Childhood Network in partnership with a variety of sectors, and will focus on developing a co-created policy framework.

**ADVOCACY**

Zero to Five Montana is engaged in building relationships and creating community advocacy opportunities through a variety of avenues and initiatives.


**PROGRAMS**

**Montana Child Care Business Connect** - Montana's statewide hub for child care business development and innovation. This program aims to make lasting change in the state by supporting the success of child care providers and inspiring others to invest in child care systems in their communities. Learn more at [ChildCareBusinessConnect.com](http://ChildCareBusinessConnect.com).
Zero to Five Montana believes in community-led solutions to build an early childhood system that truly works for families in Montana. Our organization offers a variety of initiatives to ensure locally-led solutions are implemented across the state.

COMMUNITY & EMPLOYER CHILD CARE INNOVATION PILOT
We supported nine partners across Montana in developing a child care infrastructure strategy to meet the needs of employers and families in their communities. Our work with communities continues through Child Care Business Connect. This pilot provided the structure for the child care capacity building cohort model.

MONTANA INFANT & TODDLER TRIBAL LANGUAGE PILOT
We helped create opportunities for five tribal programs in Montana to build, strengthen, and promote native language strategies in infant and toddler care settings. The pilot supported the opportunity for new legislation, which allows school districts to partner with early childhood programs and receive funding for tribal language. We partner to support the annual Early Childhood Tribal Language Summit hosted by Salish Kootenai College.

COMMUNITY CHILD CARE CAPACITY BUILDING COHORTS
We are offering individualized technical assistance and a shared networking space for communities across Montana who are interested in addressing child care gaps through a collaborative community-led child care solution. The first cohort launched March 2023, the second in September 2023 and one more additional cohort will launch in 2024.

FAMILY-CENTERED EARLY CHILDHOOD POLICY PILOT
The Family-Centered Early Childhood Policy Pilot aims to support Montana communities in designing and implementing a prenatal-to-five strategy to increase parent voices in early childhood policy issues.