

# Beyond the Consensus Report: Transforming the Workforce Birth Through Age 8



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Qualification requirements for care and education professionals currently vary widely based on their role, the ages of the children with whom they work, and which agency or institution has authority to set qualification criteria. The science of child development and early learning shows that the work of all lead educators for young children requires the same high level of sophisticated knowledge and skills, regardless of the child's age. To build a workforce unified by a common knowledge base and necessary skills, the 2015 Institute of Medicine/National Research Council report *Transforming the Workforce Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation*, offered a blueprint with specific actions for local, state, and national leaders in areas of higher education, professional learning during ongoing practice, policies for qualification requirements, and other standards for professional practice. The complexity of the recommendations and the many actors involved led the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) to select the report as the pilot for a new "incubation model" designed to sustain ongoing productive dialogue and facilitate tailored implementation planning around consensus reports of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

