1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to education; providing that
3	state-funded education and care programs for
4	infants and toddlers must foster brain
5	development; requiring an evaluation and a
6	report; providing an effective date.
7	
8	WHEREAS, at birth, a child has one hundred billion
9	brain cells that will be developed by the experiences of life,
10	and
11	WHEREAS, the stimulation that causes brain development
12	can be positive, such as conversation, music, and parental
13	love, or it can be negative, such as neglect or emotional and
14	physical abuse, and
15	WHEREAS, during the first year of a child's life the
16	connections between the cells, the synapses, increase
17	twenty-fold, making the first year a crucial time for brain
18	development, and
19	WHEREAS, infants develop synapses when they listen to
20	language and music, see colors and shapes, and feel and handle
21	objects of different sizes, shapes, and textures, and
22	WHEREAS, there is no other time in a child's life as
23	productive for brain development as the first year, NOW
24	THEREFORE,
25	
26	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
27	
28	Section 1. Each state-funded education and care
29	program for children from birth to 5 years of age must provide
30	activities to foster brain development in infants and

31 toddlers. A program must provide an environment rich in

1 language and music and filled with objects of various colors, 2 shapes, textures, and sizes to stimulate visual, tactile, 3 auditory, and linguistic senses in the children and must 4 include classical music and at least 30 minutes of reading to the children each day. A program may be offered through an 5 6 existing early childhood program such as Healthy Start, the 7 Title I program, subsidized child care, the prekindergarten 8 early-intervention program, Florida First Start, the Head 9 Start program, or a private childcare program. A program must provide training for the infants' and toddlers' parents 10 including direct dialogue and interaction between teachers and 11 12 parents demonstrating the urgency of brain development in the 13 first year of a child's life. The Executive Office of the Governor shall 14 Section 2. 15 contract for an evaluation of programs to stimulate brain development in infants and toddlers and shall report the 16 results of the evaluation to the President of the Senate and 17 18 the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 19 2000. 20 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a 21 law. 22 23 24 SENATE SUMMARY Provides that each state-funded education and care program for children from birth to 5 years of age must foster brain development through specific activities. 25 26 Requires an evaluation and a report to the legislature. 27 28 29 30 31