

By Representative Miller

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.

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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,

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26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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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

