

# Fort Bend County Infant-Toddler Court



## What is the Infant Toddler Court (ITC)?

It is a collaborative “specialty court”, based on the premises that:

- Early interventions can heal the trauma experienced by young children
- Stability in placement supports a child’s well being
- Early assessment and interventions matter
- Families experience multiple and complex needs that require integrated and specialized services
- Appropriate care giving relationships are critical to a child’s well being

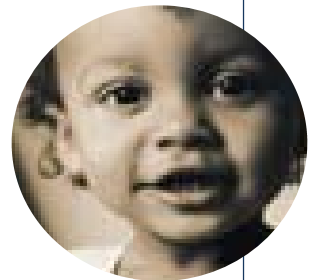
### What we do:

The ITC, under the leadership of Judge Pope, 328<sup>th</sup> District Court, works collaboratively with various partners to:

- ✓ Educate about the importance of early relationships and early development of children
- ✓ Provide Parent-child relationship assessments
- ✓ Provide TBRI® interventions
- ✓ Enhance visitation practices
- ✓ Connect families to services in their community
- ✓ Work to remove barriers to care
- ✓ Enhance mental health & case management services
- ✓ Keep infants and toddlers safe
- ✓ Heal trauma
- ✓ Preserve and support families where possible
- ✓ Divert children from further involvement in the child welfare or criminal justice system

The 328<sup>th</sup> District Court in Fort Bend County was one of five Courts nationwide that began the initiatives for infants and toddlers over 13 years ago. The Infant Toddler Court Team partners with:

- CASA
- County Attorney
- Child Protective Services
- Substance Abuse Tx Providers
- Early Childhood Intervention
- Mental health providers
- Parenting education
- Women’s Center
- Private child serving agencies
- Social Services and Transit
- Houston Furniture Bank
- FB County Behavioral Health



The Court team has made many accomplishments including:

- Increase in parent-child visits
- Increase in relative/kinship placement
- Focus on front-loading services
- Parent-child relationship assessments
- TBRI®
- Increased oversight-court hearing every month
- Reductions in out-of-home placement / moves
- Increased knowledge among stakeholders
- Family centered services
- Services to address social determinants of health