



Be A Resource

Say More

Kentucky's Voice for Early Childhood

www.voiceforearlychildhood.org

(sign up to be a voice on legislative issues)

Learn More

Zero to Three

www.zerotothree.org

(early childhood health and education information)

Kids Count

www.datacenter.kidscount.org

(data on Kentucky's children)

Do More

United Way of Greater Cincinnati

www.uwgc.org

(volunteer and community involvement opportunities)

"There is no better return on investment of public funds than in early childhood."

-James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics-

How can I be a voice for Kentucky's young children?

- Stay informed about early childhood issues! Understand the importance of the first years of life and be aware of policies affecting the education of young children.
- Talk to staff and parents; share your knowledge and successes in early childhood education.
- Join Kentucky's Voice for Early Childhood- a simple way to voice opinions to legislators and get informed about policies.
- Incorporate advocacy into family and agency activities.
- Invite local leaders and officials to your site. Talk to them about the importance of early childhood issues.
- Be an active part of the early childhood community. Join a board or committee.

Be a Voice for Children

Advocating for our Common Wealth

For Professionals



For Questions or Comments Contact:

Advocacy Director

859-431-2075

advocacy@childreninc.org

Turn Risk into Hope for Kentucky's Young Children

Four Reasons to Be a Voice for Kentucky's Young Children

#1 Early Education Matters

It is well documented that children who attend a quality early education program do better in school.

Did you know?

- Children who start school behind tend to stay behind. One third of our children begin kindergarten significantly behind. *(Denton & West, 2002)*
- Quality education predicts long-term academic success. A recent review of 123 studies showed significant and enduring effects of quality early education experiences. *(Barnett, 2010)*
- Less than 35% of Kentucky's early care providers participate in the STARS quality rating system and fewer than 10% are nationally accredited.



Will you speak for me?

#2 Short & Long-Term Economic Impact

Investment in early education has a life long effect on the success of children in school, work and life as adults. This fact is especially true for children living in poverty.

Did you know?

- 63% of children in Kentucky under 6 have all parents in the household in the work force and need child care. *(Children's Defense Fund, 2010)*
- Investing in early childhood is an effective way to reduce long term economic and social issues such as welfare, crime and high school dropout rates.
- Investing in quality now saves taxpayers later with an average return on investment of \$5 to \$15 for every \$1 spent.

#3 Early Brain Development

Breakthroughs in neuro-science have shown that early education experiences are critical to brain development.

Did you know?

- The child's brain is largely created after birth. There are 50 trillion connections at birth and by age 3 this grows to 1000 trillion. *(Neurons to Neighborhoods)*
- The quality of friendships, loving relationships and parenting throughout life is formed from initial experiences in the early years of life.
- Children under chronic stress have higher levels of a stress hormone which interferes in brain development.

#4 The Right Thing to Do

All children should have the best start in life!

Did you know?

- School Success is built considerably on language success. "Language exposure in the first 4 years is less for children in poverty." *(Zero to Three)*
- 25.6% of Kentucky children are living in poverty. *(Children's Defense Fund, 2011)*
- 16% of students in Kentucky will not graduate from high school. *(Kentucky Department of Education, 2008)*