

Time for R.E.C.E.S.S.? Time for Action!

America ^{FOR}
Early Ed
naeyc

Tools for Talking to Your Members of Congress About Child Care During August Recess



Early childhood educators know all about the importance of recess!

But we're not talking about the kind where kids play outside. Instead, we're talking about the kind where Members of Congress come home on break—which can be just as important to ensuring children's healthy growth and development!

That's because this kind of recess offers crucial opportunities to connect with elected officials outside of Washington, D.C. and in your shared communities. This year, we're focused on making sure all members of Congress know how much child care relief funding helped, and why sustained investments are needed. We hope you'll take advantage of recess opportunities to share with them all the ways children, parents, educators and businesses benefit when families have access to high-quality child care!

Keep reading to find out more about how you can prepare to make this year's August R.E.C.E.S.S. the best it can be for children, families, and educators!



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Reach Out

Find the [home district address and phone number for your member of Congress](#). Call or set up a time to [visit](#) to make sure they know their constituents want them to build on the bipartisan commitment to early childhood education by growing investments in child care, Head Start and early learning.

E

Extend Invitations

Invite members of Congress and/or their staff to visit a high-quality early childhood education program in a child care center or family child care home so they can understand first-hand the benefits these programs provide to children, families and communities.

- See Summer 2024 [Sample Invitations to a Member of Congress to Conduct a Site Visit](#)
- [How to Organize an Early Learning Site Visit for a Policy Maker](#)

Since this is an election year, you can also attend town halls, invite all candidates to participate in forums, or ask them to answer questionnaires about their views and plans regarding child care and early learning. Learn more and see sample facilitator and audience questions at www.americaforearlyed.org/our-votes.

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Call Attention to Child Care

Share national, state, and local press stories like [this one](#) or [this one](#) with your elected officials.

You can also write your own op-ed or letter to the editor—like [this one](#)—about the importance of child care and the need to invest in early childhood education and educators! Don't know where to start? Email advocacy@naeyc.org and we'll help you get going!

E

Elevate Your Voice

Through relief funding and annual appropriations, Congress has made important investments in child care and early learning programs. But your members need to hear from you - parents, family members, educators, and advocates - about why these investments matter, and what additional, sustainable support is still needed to help you thrive.

[Share your child care story here so we can share it with them!](#)

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Say it on Social Media

Tell #Congress to #FundChildCare so that families can access #ChildCare4All because having #ChildCareNow helps make sure #ECEWins!

It's always the right time to talk about #childcare on X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and more! Using videos and sample social media posts (while tagging your member of Congress!) will help them understand the need for and importance of investments in early childhood education and educators.

- [VIDEO: Parents and Educators Agree: More Funding for Child Care + Sample Social Media](#)
- [VIDEO: Video: Empowering the Profession Through Early Childhood Educator Credentials](#)
- [VIDEO: The State of Child Care in America \(2023\)](#)

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Share Resources

One of the best ways to build a relationship with your legislators and their staff is to serve as a resource they can turn to bring national, state, and local data, quotes, and stories from resources such as [NAEYC's ECE Workforce surveys](#) and [First Five Years Fund's CCDBG fact sheets](#).