Contact Information

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Trying Together supports high-quality care and education for young children by providing advocacy, community resources, and professional growth opportunities for the needs and rights of children, their families, and the individuals who interact with them.
ELRC Region 5

Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC) Region 5 provides a single point-of-contact for Allegheny County families, early learning service providers, and communities to gain information and access services that support high-quality child care and early learning programs.
Stay Up To Date

Newsletter Sign Up
Stay up to date on Trying Together news and events: bit.ly/receive-emails

Follow Trying Together On Social Media
Facebook: @Trying Together
Twitter: @Trying_Together
Instagram: @Trying_Together
LinkedIn: @Trying Together
Our Vision

Trying Together envisions a future in which all caregivers feel valued.
Becoming A Child’s First Advocate
Outline

- Defining Advocacy
- Early Learning PA Campaigns
- Overview of Budget Timeline & How You Can Advocate
- COVID-19 ECE Advocacy
- Take Action
- Reflections
Defining Advocacy

- Government Relations
- Mobilization
- Communications
- Research
- Policy
Audiences

- Grassroots - teachers, directors, families
- Grasstops - business leaders
- Elected officials and other decision makers - federal, state, local, school districts
Early Learning PA Campaigns

START STRONG PA

Childhood Begins at Home

PRE-K FOR PA

Trying Together
Start Strong PA

Supports healthy child development and working families by advocating for increased access and affordability of high-quality child care with a focus on infants and toddlers.
Pre-K for PA

Promotes access to high-quality, affordable pre-k for 3- and 4- year olds through increased investments in Pre-K Counts and Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program.
Childhood Begins at Home

Elevates the importance for evidence-based home visiting programs to support parents as a child’s first teacher.
What Does Advocacy Look Like for Trying Together’s Policy Team?

• State budget cycle is an ongoing, yearlong process running from July 1 - June 30

• Campaigns meet with Secretary of Department of Human Services (DHS), Secretary of the PA Department of Education (PDE), the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), Governor’s office

• Governor delivers budget address in early February - this is only a proposal and sets the stage for negotiations with the legislature
The Budget Process

February & March - Appropriations Hearings
 • Focus on the PDE and DHS Hearings (one in the House & one in the Senate)

What are the advocacy actions?
 • Draft questions and decide which legislators we will encourage to ask
 • Share questions with PDE & DHS so the Secretaries know what to expect
The Budget Process

April-May/June - Budget Negotiations

- House and Senate discuss budget priorities
- General Assembly works to pass a budget bill

What are the advocacy actions?

- Meetings with legislators in district office and in Harrisburg
- Capitol Visibility Events
- Focus Weeks
- Op-Eds
Advocacy Measures that Support Your Child’s Early Learning Journey
When I grow up, I want to be a veterinarian.
Taking Action: You are the EXPERT!

- What is the key issue you want to advocate for?
- What advocacy actions do you want to take?
- What messaging will you use?
- How will you share your story?
- Who can you mobilize?
Advocacy Strategies During Covid-19

• Write letters to the editor & op-eds
• Social Media - tag legislators
• Use this time to educate and mobilize your network
• Participate in phone call and email campaigns
• Set up a video meetings and virtual tours of programs
• Virtual forums - No Small Matter
Mandated Reporter Training

Advocating for young children can be done in numerous ways! Ensuring all children are safe and healthy is one of them. As a caregiver and an advocate for children, it is **VERY** important to take the Mandated Reporter Training.

Mandated Reporters are required to report any sign of abuse or neglect of a child.

**Access Mandated Reporter Training:**

**Mandated Reporter Resources:**
What’s Next?

• Sign up for public policy alerts

• Join Start Strong PA or Pre-K for PA campaigns

• Set up a call with your legislator (we can help)

• Sign up for additional resources at Trying Together
Join Our Campaigns

**Start Strong PA**
Advocate for affordable high-quality child care: [startstrongpa.org](http://startstrongpa.org)

**Pre-K for PA**
Advocate for increased access to high-quality pre-k: [prekforpa.org](http://prekforpa.org)

**Childhood Begins at Home**
Advocate for evidence-based home visiting: [childhoodbeginsathome.org](http://childhoodbeginsathome.org)

**Support Our Public Policy Agenda**
Upcoming Events

Raising Readers Together Club: Virtual Sessions
Wednesdays and Thursdays | 6 - 7:30 p.m. | Learn More

Fathers Trying Together: Virtual Sessions
First Friday of Every Month | 6 - 7:30 p.m. | Learn More

Women’s Rap: Virtual Sessions
Second Friday of Every Month | 6 - 7:30 p.m. | Learn More

Rise Together: Virtual Sessions
Fourth Friday of Every Month | 6 - 7:30 p.m. | Learn More
More Resources from Trying Together

Allegheny Child Care - www.alleghenychildcare.org

Early Learning Resource Center Region 5 - elrc5.alleghenycounty.us

The Homewood Early Learning Hub & Family Center - www.tryingtogether.org/community-resources/hub-and-family-center

Developmentally Appropriate Parenting (DAP) Series - https://tryingtogether.org/parenting-resources/
Share Your Feedback!

Fill out this survey to receive DAP Series cards via mail -
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Thank you.