

מרכז
למחקר
והשכלה
במקצועות
המדעים
החיים



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Contact Information



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Trying Together

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



**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

February Governor's Budget Address



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

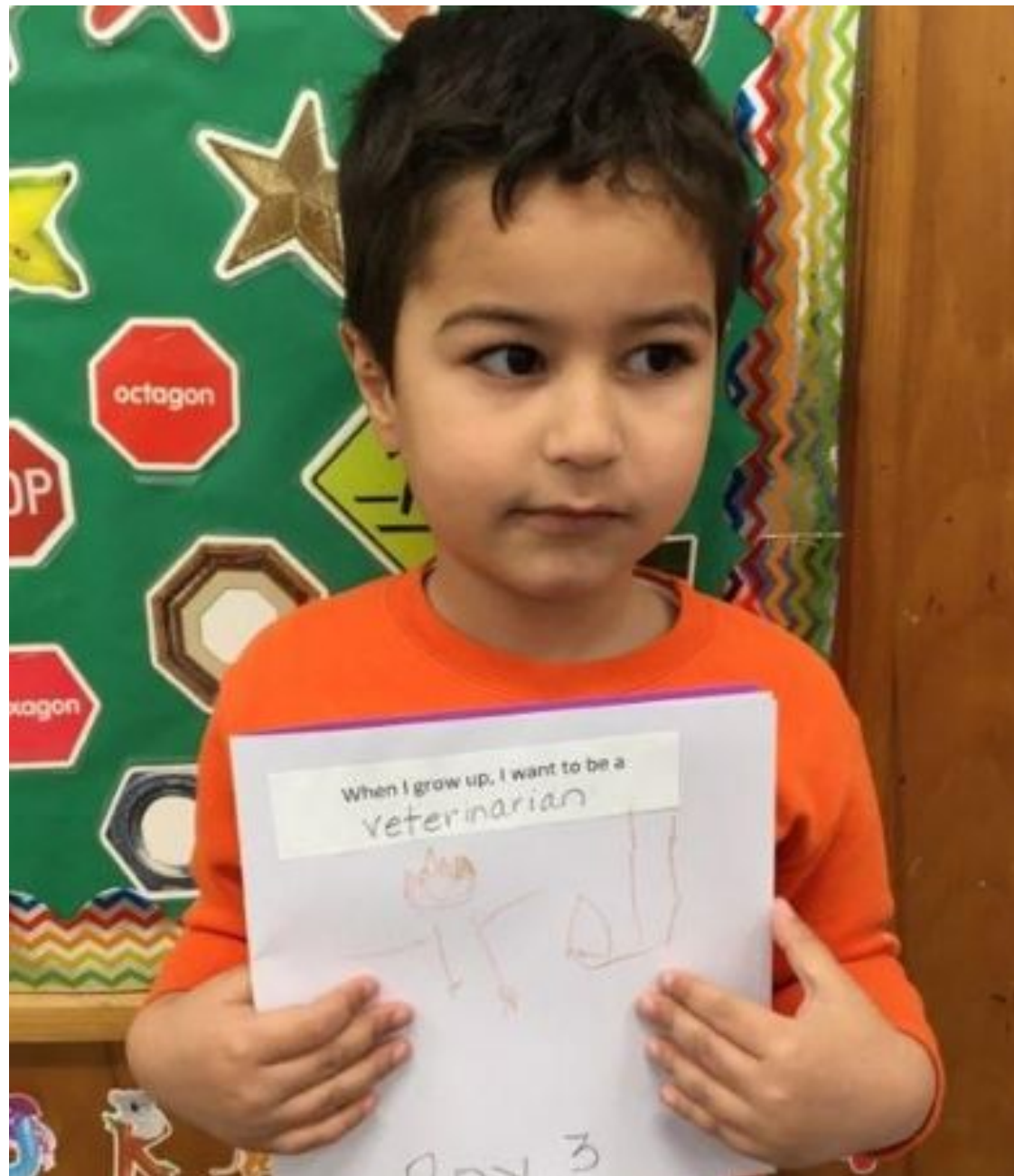
What are the advocacy actions?

- 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

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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:

<https://www.socialwork.pitt.edu/researchtraining/child-welfare-programs/act-31-line-training->

Mandated Reporter Resources:

http://keepkidssafe.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_137646.pdf



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

Pre-K for PA

Advocate for increased access to high-quality pre-k: prekforpa.org

Childhood Begins at Home

Advocate for evidence-based home visiting: childhoodbeginsathome.org

Support Our Public Policy Agenda

Receive advocacy alerts right in your inbox: bit.ly/advocacy-alert



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 -

<http://bit.ly/parentingtogether>



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Thank you.

