

# Advocating Together

# Month of the Young Child

## Simple ways to take action during Month of the Young Child (MOYC)

MOYC is a time to plan how we will better meet the needs of all young children, families, caregivers, and early learning professionals. Elected officials play a critical role in funding essential early childhood programs. During MOYC we invite you to advocate with us and remind our lawmakers of the importance of investing in early learning.

**You are the expert. Your voice matters.**

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### Five-Minute Activities

**1.** Display the posters included in this box near the entrance of your learning center.

**2.** Follow Start Strong PA on social media

- Facebook:  
[facebook.com/StartStrongPA](https://facebook.com/StartStrongPA)
- Instagram:  
[instagram.com/startstrongpa](https://instagram.com/startstrongpa)
- Twitter:  
[twitter.com/StartStrongPA](https://twitter.com/StartStrongPA)

**3.** Sign on to be an individual supporter:

<https://startstrongpa.org/join-us>

**4.** Take Action:

<https://tryingtogether.org/advocacy/current-issue>

**5.** Providers, share your story on social media and encourage your parents to do so, too. Use these sample templates:

*As an ECE professional, I deserve to be paid as such. ECE teachers earn an average of \$12.43 per hour. This doesn't cover the cost of living in PA. #SolveChildCare*

*Month of the Young Child is a time to discuss and plan ways to better meet the needs of all young children, families, and early care and education professionals. Unfortunately, 50% of educators in the ECE field reported that they do not plan to, or are unsure of, whether they will remain in their jobs in the next five years. The system is not equitable. Find out more: <https://bit.ly/ECE-Wage-Study> #SolveChildCare #TheCrisisIsReal #MOYC2023*

*Child care and early learning is more than just a job. I entered the early childhood field because [insert your reason]. #Working4Children*

*As an early childhood educator, my passion is working with young children. I am grateful for [center name/director] for giving me the opportunity to do this work every day. #Working4Children #MOYC2023*

*As a parent, I rely on child care to [insert action]. Without it, I wouldn't be able to [insert Outcome]. #SolveChildCare*

**If you haven't already, follow and tag Trying Together on social media.**

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/TryingTogether](https://facebook.com/TryingTogether) | @Trying Together

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/Trying\\_Together](https://twitter.com/Trying_Together) | @Trying\_Together

**Instagram:** [instagram.com/trying\\_together](https://instagram.com/trying_together) | @trying\_together

**LinkedIn:** [linkedin.com/company/trying-together](https://linkedin.com/company/trying-together) | @Trying Together

## 15-Minute Activities

1. Celebrate early learning on social media. Photograph artwork from around your center, snap a photo of everyday learning activities, or take a 30-second video of a teacher reading “Mel Fell”(included in this box) to a group of students. Post it on social media and include a caption that highlights the learning that took place during the activity (i.e. fine motor skills, social skills, building language, mathematics, etc.). Then tag Trying Together and your local legislators!
2. Leave a brief message for your legislator at their district office. Craft your own message or follow this simple template:
  - Name and location of early learning program
  - I employ [insert number of] early learning professionals
  - [insert number of] children attend my center where they receive care and education in a safe and enriching environment while their parents are at work.
  - I have the capacity to provide care for [insert number of] children when fully staffed.
  - I urge you to take action to end the child care staffing crisis by investing in our workforce. Increase investments in early learning and child care. We must prioritize the child care workforce. PA businesses depend on working families and working families depend on child care and early learning programs.

Find your local legislator: <https://bit.ly/PA-Legislators>

## Have More Time?

- Work with Trying Together to invite a legislator to visit your program and read “Mel Fell”. If you’re interested in hosting a visit, complete this form: <https://bit.ly/Advocacy-Opportunities>
- Reach out to your parents and ask for volunteers to write a letter to the editor regarding the value of child care and early learning. Contact [ashley@tryingtogether.org](mailto:ashley@tryingtogether.org) to receive a letter to the editor template.
- Host a coffee and conversation listening session with parents and caregivers to elevate the quality care and learning their children are receiving every day.
- Check out the Leadership in Action program for more ideas: <https://bit.ly/Leadership-Action>

**Stay up to date with ECE updates by signing up for our public policy newsletter:**

<https://tryingtogether.org/advocacy/current-issue>

