

When something is unjust or unfair, we cannot remain silent. When we raise our voices together, wonderful things happen.

This past year, many of us spoke up for early care and education. We told our stories of dedicated teachers struggling to make ends meet on unlivable wages and grappling with decisions to leave a field that they love, of programs trying to balance budgets and struggling with decisions to raise rates and risk losing families or forgo wage increases and risk losing teachers. We voiced again and again that the true cost of care is unaffordable to most families and when we cannot put the true cost of care on families, educators effectively subsidize the system through lower pay. We let it be known that quality programs happen because of these dedicated educators and we need to do better by them.

Because we raised our voices and did not give up, we were heard!

I would like to thank Governor Shapiro and members of the General Assembly who voted to make early care and education a priority. Educators, administrators, parents, grandparents, and community stakeholders very much appreciate your support. Progress has been made and continued investment is essential.

I would also like to thank the staff of Trying Together and PennAEYC for leading the way in our advocacy efforts and standing with us in support!

I will continue to raise my voice to ensure early care and education gets the investment it so desperately needs and deserves. Our families deserve quality programs, our children deserve qualified teachers, and our teachers deserve livable wages.

Celebrating everyone who spoke up in advocacy—our voices are making a difference, and the work continues!

Sincerely,

Stephanie McAdoo

Director

Indi Kids