

America for Early Ed + Week of the Young Child = #ECEWins



Join us in celebrating the Week of the Young Child by advocating for a lifetime of success for all children. With this mini-toolkit, you can bring America for Early Ed into your #WOYC18 celebrations by taking steps to Learn, Act, and Share each day. Together, we can make sure #ECEwins—across the country and in your community!

April 16: Music Monday!

Sing, dance, celebrate, and learn

Through music, children develop math, language, and literacy skills—all while having fun and being active! Make up and record your own unique version of a song or write your own, and share it using the hashtag #woyc18.

Learn

Your voice is powerful, whether you're singing with children or speaking out on their behalf. Check out what happened when advocates came together for the [2018 Public Policy Forum](#) to lend their voices to important issues affecting young children, families, and early childhood educators. Then celebrate the victory they helped earn as [Congress passed the biggest child care funding increase in history!](#)

Act

Join the chorus by signing up to receive updates from [America for Early Ed](#). Make sure you don't miss another opportunity to add your voice to our advocacy efforts—and save the date for the [2019 Public Policy Forum!](#)

Share

On Twitter: On #MusicMonday, I'm adding my voice to the chorus with America for #EarlyEd! Will you join me? Sign up for #advocacy alerts today so we can all raise our voices for children, families, and #ECE educators! bit.ly/2sc02w3 @SupportEarlyEd #ECEWins #WOYC18

On Facebook: I'm celebrating Music Monday by adding my voice to the America for Early Ed chorus! Have you signed up to receive important advocacy updates and news? I have and you can too: bit.ly/2sc02w3. Together we will raise our voices to make sure #ECEwins for all children, families, and #ECE educators!

April 17: Tasty Tuesday

Healthy eating and fitness at home and school

This fun, food-themed day is about more than just cheese and crackers. Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science, and more. With the rise in childhood obesity, you can encourage healthy nutrition and fitness habits at home and in the classroom. Create your own healthy snacks and share the recipes and photos of your creations using the hashtag #woyc18.

Learn

Did you know the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is celebrating its 50th birthday this year? This important program supports the healthy growth and development of children by helping early childhood educators serve healthy meals and snacks. Watch this [video](#) to learn more.

Act

Join educators and partners across the country to [celebrate the 50th birthday](#) of CACFP by taking action to share pictures and tools.

Share

On Twitter: #TastyTuesday Fun Fact: #CACFP promotes healthy eating habits and provides 2 billion meals & snacks to over 4.3 million children in #childcare centers, family care homes & after-school programs. Learn more at cacfp.org. @NationalCACFP @NAFCC #woyc18 #CACFP50

On Facebook: Early learning programs across the country are celebrating Week of the Young Child's Tasty Tuesday by serving healthy meals and snacks to young children. Learn how the Child and Adult Care Food Program is helping them and others do so! Cacfp.org #CACFP50

April 18: Work Together Wednesday

Work together, build together, learn together

When children build together they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills. Children can use any building material—from a fort of branches on the playground to a block city in the classroom, or a hideaway made from couch pillows at home. Build and share pictures of children's creations using the #woyc18 hashtag.

Learn

Did you know the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides important opportunities for increased partnership between early learning and K-12 education? Learn more about how [ESSA supports early childhood education; what states have done so far to advance early learning in state ESSA plans](#); and check out [this toolkit](#) from our partners on what K-12 and early childhood systems can and must do to coordinate their efforts!

Act

Strengthen the connections between K-12 and early childhood education by inviting the principal of your local elementary school to come visit your high-quality early childhood program! While you're at it, include policymakers or a representative from your local Chamber of Commerce to showcase the many partnerships at work in ensuring young children reach their full potential. Use this [sample invitation](#) and [resource](#) to help organize a successful site visit!

Share

On Twitter: Teamwork makes the dream work! When #earlyed and #K12 educators & leaders work together to create a seamless #education system, it's better for children, families, and educators. bit.ly/2GM4Tu0 @NatIHeadStart @CCSSO #ESSA #WOYC18

On Facebook: Teamwork makes the dream work! When early childhood and K-12 educators and leaders work together to go beyond kindergarten transition to create a seamless education system, it is better for children, families, and educators! Learn more about what the Every Student Succeeds Act says about coordination between the early years and the early grades: bit.ly/2GM4Tu0 #WOYC18

April 19: Artsy Thursday

Think, problem solve, create

Children develop creativity, social skills and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands. On Artsy Thursday celebrate the joy and learning children experience when engaged in creative art making. Use any materials—from crayons to paint, clay to crafts! Create and share a photos of your children's creations on NAEYC's Facebook page or Twitter using the #woyc18 hashtag.

Learn

High-quality early childhood education is an art—and a science! Neuroscience, to be exact. Learn more about the cutting edge [science of early childhood](#) with information about brain architecture, toxic stress, resilience, and more.

Act

Put those young minds to work by having the children in your programs create art projects to share with elected officials! (NAEYC accredited programs can use [this template](#), or create your own!) When you're got some beautiful pieces, write a cover letter and mail them or drop them off at your elected officials' state offices (look up their addresses [here](#)— and don't send them to Washington, DC!)

Share

On Twitter: High-quality #earlyed helps young children learn and thrive. We've got proof! Check out the wonderful pieces of art our kids created in celebration of #woyc18! When #ECEwins, we all win. #ArtsyThursday [insert pictures of student's artwork]

On Facebook: High-quality early childhood education helps young children learn and thrive. Check out the proof right here, with these wonderful pieces of art they created in celebration of #woyc18! When #ECEwins, we all win. [insert pictures of student's artwork]

April 20: Family Friday

Sharing family stories

Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. NAEYC applauds family members' role as young children's first and most important teachers. Share pictures and stories on NAEYC's Facebook page or post to Twitter using the hashtag #woyc18 as we celebrate the unique role families play in their children's learning and development.

Learn

It's so important for parents and early childhood educators to be on the same side of defining and demanding high-quality early childhood education! [Read about NAEYC's market research](#) to learn more about how parents (and educators) talk about the financing of early learning as part of our collective work to grow the demand for quality.

Act

Have you asked the families you work with whether they're registered to vote? You can help encourage civic participation—and investment in early childhood education—by making sure the people in your community are registered and reminded to vote! Check out [America for Early Ed](#) for resources, links, and more information about how to work with parents and make sure candidates on both sides of the aisle support early childhood education and educators!

Share

On Twitter: Parents! Want high-quality #earlyed for your kids and all kids? You can help make it happen! Tell Your Story: americaforearlyed.org/take-action/share-your-story And register to vote! Vote411.org #woyc18 #FamilyFriday

On Facebook: Calling all family members! Do you want high-quality early childhood education for your kids and all kids? You can help make it happen. Join other parents who are sharing their story during #woyc18: americaforearlyed.org/take-action/share-your-story. And then register to vote & make sure others are too. Visit www.vote411.org for more!