

North Carolina Early Education Coalition

DEDICATED TO ADVANCING HIGH QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION



NC Early Education Coalition

March Meeting

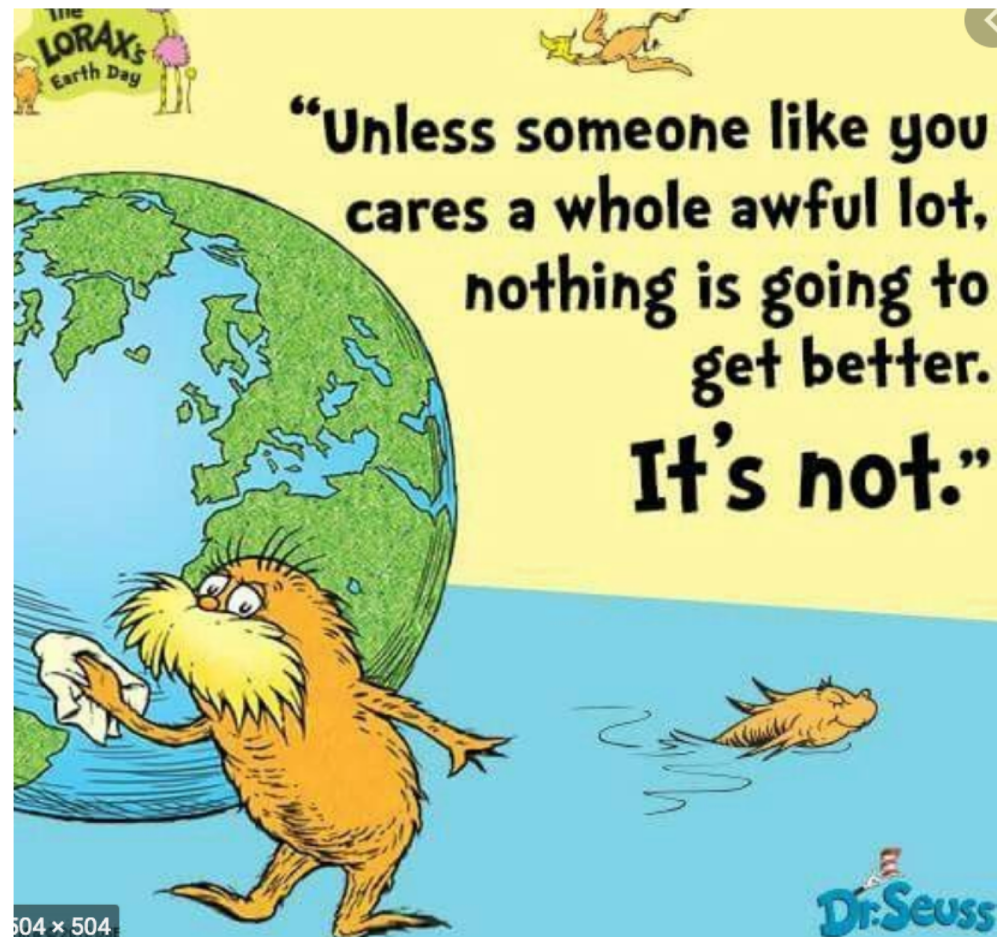
March 25, 2020



**NORTH CAROLINA
EARLY EDUCATION COALITION**

The NC Early Education Coalition is a proud partner in the national ZERO TO THREE Think Babies™ campaign and in the Pritzker Children's Initiative's National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers.

It's up to Us!

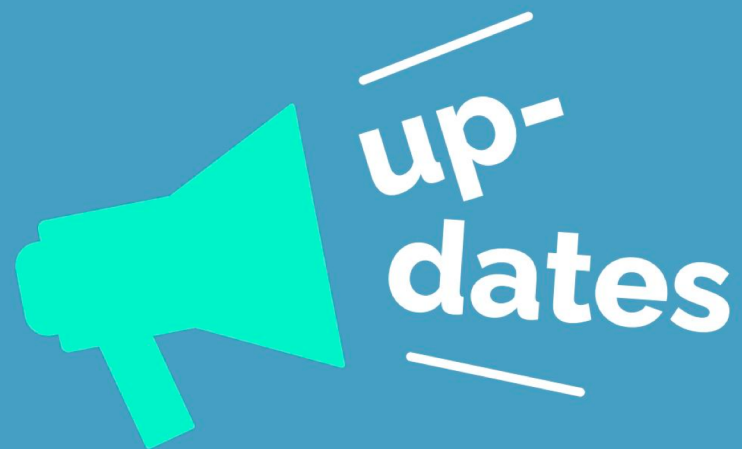


Goals for Today

- Answer some of your questions
- Share information that we know now
- Highlight Federal and State Action
- Preview Coalition Advocacy

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Early Childhood Education Breaking News



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At the Federal Level

- Congress considering a series of emergency funding bills – 2 have passed and one now in debate in the Senate
- Including –
 - early childhood education funding (through CCDBG)
 - emergency food assistance to food banks
 - Support for school systems
 - Support for health institutions
 - Support for state and local law enforcement
 - And much more

Across the Country

- Governors and state leaders are calling child care an essential service.
- States are scrambling to put emergency child care into action.
- Different actions -
 - Closed all child care
 - Relaxed child care standards
 - Setting up emergency child care sites for essential workers
 - Providing additional health and safety guidance
 - Providing additional financial support and funding

In North Carolina

- DHHS/DCDEE has
 - Passed a series of policies to guide the child care programs and others about best practices now. Posted on website.
 - Working with the CCR&R network to track programs that are open and those that have closed on a daily basis
 - Created a hotline – 888-600-1685 to help people find child care who need it.
 - Asked child care providers who are interested in becoming emergency child care sites for essential workers to complete interest application by March 31st.
 - Putting together matching service for essential workers and available child care programs. Priority for children of critical workers.

DCDEE Information

Website has all the information –

<https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Whats-New/Coronavirus-Information-for-Child-Care>

Child Care programs with questions – contact your licensing consultants

https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Portals/0/documents/pdf/C/CCHC_directory_2020_03_16.pdf?ver=2020-03-16-142800-047

DHHS/DCDEE COVID19 Response

Guidance to Early Childhood Programs

- How to make informed decisions about COVID-19 and minimize the risk of exposure to both the staff and the children in their care.

Financial Support

- **Child Care Subsidy:** all centers will receive full subsidy payment for each child enrolled in their facility according to each child's plan of care for the month of March.
- **NC Pre-K:** Pre-K programs will be paid in full for the entire month of March regardless of child attendance or closure.
- **Emergency Loans:** [Gov. Cooper requested](#) that the U.S. Small Business Administration grant North Carolina an emergency declaration that would allow for small businesses economically affected by the coronavirus to receive loans.

DHHS/DCDEE COVID19 Response

Regulatory Flexibility:

- DCDEE has identified policy and regulatory requirements that can be temporarily waived, while still ensuring the health, safety and well-being of children. (Chart on our website).
- All monitoring visits and environmental rated license assessments will not take place. This temporary change **does not** include investigations of complaints and investigations of child maltreatment

Creating Emergency Response Child Care System:

- Emergency Hot Line – 888-600-1685 – for critical workers to connect with available child care
- Asking child care programs to let DCDEE know if they are interested in becoming emergency child care sites. Required to meet new standard. Applications due March 31st.

NC General Assembly Action & Governor Cooper

NCGA

- House Speaker Moore created House Select Committee on COVID-19
- Taking comments at – <https://www.ncleg.gov/RequestForComments/33>
- Nothing yet on the Senate Side

Governor Cooper

- Governor Cooper likely to call a special session once Congress has passed COVID-19 funding package.

NC Early Education Coalition Action

Emergency Child Care Funding Proposal

- Developing emergency child care assistance funding proposal to support early childhood education system now, during and after the crisis.
- Sending it to Governor Cooper and State Legislative Leaders

Call to Close Child Care Programs AND Provide Emergency \$ Relief Now

- Joint Action – Coalition, NC Child, NCAEYC
- Our View – this is a public health crisis and child care programs should be mandated to close just like public schools to protect the health and safety of children, families, early educators and communities.

NC Early Education Coalition Action

- Coronavirus Section on Website - <https://www.ncearlyeducationcoalition.org/coronavirus/>
 - All the latest resources and links
 - Place to share your stories



NC Early Childhood Education 2020 Advocacy Opportunities



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Tuesdays for Tots is back!

Let's #ThinkBabiesNC every Tuesday in April, May and June

- Webinars
- Twitter storms
- Advocacy actions – calls, emails, petitions

Other ways you can participate in Tuesdays for Tots:

- Meet with (or call) your legislators in Raleigh or in your home district
- Invite policymakers to tour (or film a virtual tour) a child care center or program serving babies in your county
- Write an op-ed, letter to the editor, newsletter, or blog
- Share your story and/or collect stories from your community

Strolling Thunder

National Strolling Thunder (virtual)

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

NC Strolling Thunder (most likely virtual – TBD)

Thursday, May 28, 2020

What you can do right now:

Sign the Think Babies™ petition!

www.thinkbabies.org/sign-the-petition/



Advocacy Resources and Opportunities

Tools to help you make your voice heard

- Fact sheets
- Infographics
- Social media toolkit
- Advocacy toolkit
- County-level data and County Child Care profiles
- Action Center



All available at: www.ncearlyeducationcoalition.org/think-babies-nc

Questions?



Thank you!

www.NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org

For more information:

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