

THE NATIONAL CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING COALITION SAYS: BLACK LIVES MATTER.

Each and every day, our organizations fight for high-quality, affordable child care and early learning. As simple as that goal may sound, the journey to get there is far from it, and critically, is intertwined with the path toward racial justice and equality.

Child care and early learning is a public good that supports every part of our lives. It supports the healthy growth and development of our children, our jobs and businesses, our public health infrastructure, and our economic prosperity. Yet the workers providing this care, who are most often women, are underpaid and undervalued precisely because they are the ones doing this work. Black women in particular have cared for America's children for centuries—first as enslaved people and then employed as low-paid workers. The child care and early learning system we have today—poverty-level wages for the workforce, racial disparities in access to quality care for children, high costs for families, suspension and expulsion policies and practices that begin in the earliest years and disproportionately affect Black children —illustrates how child care in America remains deeply connected to white supremacy, structural racism, sexism, and discrimination. Our work to secure an equitable, effective child care system must be grounded in the racialized and gendered history of care and education in this country, and address the trauma of our children and families. This work must also sow long-term systemic change that breaks down structures intentionally created to oppress, disenfranchise, and disempower Black people in this country.

And so, as part of our work as advocates for child care and early learning:

- We demand justice for the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Dreasjon Reed, and David McAtee as only the most recent among countless horrifying examples of ongoing deliberate anti-Black racism and police terror.
- We reject white supremacy, anti-Black racism, discrimination, and prejudice in any form
- We fully support the protestors across the country demanding change and we condemn police brutality and the state-sponsored violence we have seen in the wake of these nationwide protests.
- We demand that leaders at all levels reduce funding directed to systems -- including excessive and militarized local police systems -- that perpetuate violence and reckless and discriminatory punishment.
- We demand that funding be increased for systems that help, lift up, and support communities where they need it most, including high-quality child care and early learning.

But words are not enough – and we vow to do more as advocates for high-quality, affordable child care and early learning to hold ourselves accountable to the movement for Black lives and racial justice. Being in solidarity at this moment requires us to listen to and support the leadership of Black people in our field and other movements. It also requires us to reconsider what work we do and how we do it to be actively anti-racist. We call on all child care and early learning advocates to denounce racism, white supremacy, and police violence; we call upon each of us to do the vital individual and collective anti-racist work that is required as we advocate for a more just and equitable child care system that truly demonstrates that Black families, Black educators, Black children, and Black lives matter.

A Better Balance

Action for Children

Alabama Institute for Social Justice

All Our Kin

American Federation of Teachers

Arizona Early Childhood Alliance

California National Organization for Women

Caring Across Generations

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Child Care Aware® of America

Child Care Law Center

Child Care Resources

Child Care Services Association

Child Welfare League of America

Children's Alliance

Children's HealthWatch

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York

COFI/PowerPac-IL

Colorado Children's Campaign

Community School for People under Six

Early Care & Learning Council

Early Childhood Educator and Graduate Student in EC education at New Mexico State University

Economic Opportunity Institute

Educare Learning Network

Every Child Matters

Excellenc and Equity in Early Childhood Education

Hawai i Children's Action Network

John Peirce, Peirce Consulting LLC

Let's Grow Kids

Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

Low Income Investment Fund

Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc.

Middlesex Coalition for Children

Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative

MomsRising

MS Black Women's Roundtable

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

National Human Services Assembly

National Women's Law Center

NC Early Education Coalition

NC Early Education Coalition

NC Institute for Child Development Professionals

New America Education Policy Program

Parent Voices CA

Partners In Learning

Paso a Paso

Policy Matters Ohio

PRE4CLE

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

SEIU Education and Support Fund

Strategies for Children

The Ounce of Prevention Fund

Think Small

Voices for Georgia's Children

Voices for Utah Children

Westchester Children's Association

WI Early Childhood Association

YWCA Binghamton and Broome County

YWCA Cortland

YWCA Kalamazoo

YWCA McLean County

YWCA of Alton

YWCA of the Sauk Valley

YWCA Southeast Wisconsin

YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts

YWCA Spokane

YWCA TriCounty Area

YWCA USA

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