

# 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**

**ZERO TO THREE**