

Stay Informed on National Policy Issues: Division for Early Childhood Policy and Advocacy Outlets

Division for Early Childhood (DEC) collaborates with a large number of organizations that support young children, their families, and the professionals who work with them. We offer you this list of organizations with website and social media links to help increase awareness of policy efforts and enhance advocacy efforts. Members who are interested in receiving regular updates directly from our DEC partners can read their websites, subscribe to newsletters, or follow their social media outlets. The contacts listed below are a sampling ones that provide updates on a wide range of local, national, and international policy and advocacy issues. Many of these organizations also offer state and/or local affiliations that offer you even more chances to engage in awareness and advocacy efforts.

DEC also participates in larger coalitions such as <u>Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD)</u>, <u>Association of Universities Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)</u>, and <u>Coalition on Human Needs (CHN)</u>. The DEC executive office works to keep members appraised of key national policy issues that may require advocacy from members. Members are encouraged to subscribe the DEC News Alerts at http://www.dec-sped.org/news to stay updated.

There are many possibilities for awareness and advocacy. Simply start small and branch out once you feel comfortable with the connections you've made about the issues you value most.

Newsletters/Websites			Social Media					
Websites	Blog/ Newsfeed	eNewsletters	Twitter	Facebook	Instagra m	LinkedIn	YouTube	

American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) is the national professional association established in 1917 to represent the interests and concerns of occupational therapy practitioners and students of occupational therapy and to improve the quality of occupational therapy services. AOTA's major programs and activities are directed toward assuring the quality of occupational therapy services, improving consumer access to health care services, and promoting the professional development of members. AOTA educates the public and advances the profession by providing resources, setting standards, and serving as an advocate to improve health care.

aota.org/	communot.a	<u>Publications-</u>	@AOTAInc	@America	@aotain	<u>AOTA</u>	<u>AOTA</u>
Advocacy-	ota.org/aota-	News/E-		<u>nOccupatio</u>	<u>c</u>		<u>Youtube</u>
Policy.aspx	blog	Newsletters.		nalTherapy			<u>Channel</u>
				<u>Association</u>			
				<u>AOTA</u>			

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)

APTA is a community of 100,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and physical therapy students who are dedicated to pursuing our transformative vision for the physical therapy profession. APTA supports members throughout their career with outstanding benefits and trusted content. APTA serves members through advocacy and public awareness. APTA empowers members to make a difference through advocacy and engagement. And APTA connects members to thought leaders and peers who share professional interests.

N	Newsletters/Websites			Social Media					
Websites	Blog/ Newsfeed	eNewsletters	Twitter	Facebook	Instagra m	LinkedIn	YouTube		
apta.org/ advocacy	APTA NEWS	PT-PAC newsletter-sign- up	@APTAtweet S	@America nPhysicalT herapyAsso ciation	<u>@aptapi</u> <u>cs</u>	American Physical Therapy Association	APTA Youtube		

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 218,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students.

asha.org/	leader.pubs.a	https://	@ASHAWeb	<u>ASHA</u>	@ashaw	<u>ASHA</u>	<u>ASHA</u>
<u>advocacy</u>	sha.org	www.asha.org/			<u>eb</u>		<u>Youtube</u>
		publications/					
		asha-now/					

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Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving the educational success of children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents. CEC advocates for appropriate governmental policies, sets professional standards, provides professional development, and helps professionals obtain conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice. CEC is known as THE source for information, resources, and professional development for special educators.

<u>exceptionalc</u>	cec.sped.org/	CEC Policy	@CECMem	@cechq	@cec_he	CEC HQ	<u>CECHeadq</u>
hildren.org	news	<u>Insider</u>	<u>bership</u>		<u>adquarte</u>		<u>uarters</u>
					<u>rs</u>		

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

CLASP is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advancing policy solutions for low-income people. Sign up to receive the latest press releases and news articles. CLASP works to develop and implement federal, state, and local policies (in legislation, regulation, and on the ground) that reduce poverty, improve low-income people's lives, and creates pathways to economic security for everyone. That includes directly addressing the barriers people face because of race, ethnicity, and immigration status. We also fight back against bad ideas as well as political attacks on effective policies and investments.

Newsletters/Websites			Social Media					
Websites	Blog/ Newsfeed	eNewsletters	Twitter	Facebook	Instagra m	LinkedIn	YouTube	
clasp.org	CLASP Blog	CLASP Press Room	@CLASP_DC	@CLASP.or g_	@clasp_ dc	CLASP	CLASP.org	

Child Care Aware of America (CCAOA)

Child Care Aware® of America is the nation's leading voice on child care. Child Care Aware® of America works with more than 400 state and local <u>Child Care Resource and Referral agencies</u> nationwide. To achieve our mission, our organization leads projects that increase the quality and availability of child care, undertakes research, and advocates child care policies that positively impact the lives of children and families.

<u>childcareawa</u>	Blog	Sign Up for	@ChildCare	@ChildCar	@childca	<u>ChildCareA</u>	<u>ChildCare</u>
re.org		<u>eNews</u>	<u>Aware</u>	<u>eAware</u>	<u>reaware</u>	<u>ware</u>	<u>AwareofA</u>
					<u>usa</u>		<u>merica</u>

Newsletters/Websites			Social Media						
Websites	Blog/ Newsfeed	eNewsletters	Twitter	Facebook	Instagra m	LinkedIn	YouTube		
Child Trends									

Child Trends is the nation's leading research organization focused exclusively on improving the lives of children and youth, especially those who are most vulnerable. Child Trends works to ensure that all kids thrive by conducting independent research and partnering with practitioners and policymakers to apply that knowledge. Child Trends believes that programs and policies that serve children are most effective when they are informed.

Child Trends believes that programs and policies that serve children are most effective when they are informed by data and evidence and grounded in deep knowledge of child and youth development.

<u>childtrends.o</u>	Blog	Newsroom	@ChildTren	@childtren	ChildTrends	<u>ChildTrend</u>
rg			<u>ds</u>	<u>ds</u>		<u>s</u>

Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE)

The Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) is an international professional educational organization which is affiliated with the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) whose members are dedicated to the enhancement of the worth, dignity, potential, and uniqueness of each individual in society.

casecec.org	CASE BLOG	In-CASE	@casecec	@CASECEC	@casece	CASE	
		Newsletter			<u>c2020</u>		
		(members-only)					

Newsletters/Websites			Social Media					
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First Five Years Fund (FFYF)

FFYF works to sustain and expand the support for early learning that exists at the federal level, while identifying and advancing new and innovative ways to increase access to high-quality early childhood education for children from low-income families. FFYF helps align best practices with the best possible policies and work with advocacy groups and policymakers on both sides of the aisle to identify federal solutions that work for children, families and taxpayers, as well as states and communities. Early childhood development is a practical, non-partisan issue—so FFYF collaborates with a diverse and wide range of federal and state advocates, business and thought leaders, and policymakers to help build consensus and craft early childhood policies that provide lasting economic and social returns.

ffyf.org	News and	<u>Subscribe</u>	@firstfiveye	@firstfivey	<u>First Five</u>	<u>First Five</u>
	Resources		<u>ars</u>	<u>ears</u>	<u>Years Fund</u>	<u>Years</u>

Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)

ITCA is your online link to the resources that help to improve the lives of infants & toddlers with special needs. ITCA believes that every successful early childhood intervention is the result of a cooperative spirit — the coordination and collaboration of many individuals who share a goal to help infants and toddlers with developmental challenges.

<u>ideainfantto</u>	<u>Associations</u>			<u>IDEA</u>
ddler.org	and Reports			<u>webinar</u>
				<u>series</u>

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National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is a professional membership organization that works to promote high-quality early learning for all young children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood practice, policy, and research. NAEYC advances a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children. The association comprises nearly 60,000 individual members of the early childhood community and more than 50 Affiliates, all committed to delivering on the promise of high-quality early learning. Together, NAEYC works with members to achieve a collective vision: that all young children thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential.

<u>americaforea</u>	Resources/	<u>@naeyc</u>	<u>@NAEYC</u>	@naeyc	<u>NAEYC</u>	<u>NAEYC</u>
<u>rlyed.org</u>	Blog					<u>Youtube</u>

National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)

The National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) is a nationwide non-profit organization dedicated to promoting high quality child care by strengthening the profession of family child care for nearly one million paid home-based early learning programs serving almost 40% of the 6.7 million children who receive care from a nonrelative on a regular basis.

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Websites	Blog/ Newsfeed	eNewsletters	Twitter	Facebook	Instagra m	LinkedIn	YouTube	
nafcc.org	News Events	Blog and Newsroom	<u>@nafcc</u>	<u>@nafcc</u>	@nafcc	NAFCC	NAFCC YouTube	

National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)

The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) is a premier membership organization that supports state leaders of special education throughout the United States and its Territories. Our mission and vision is to improve individual and organizational success for state leaders of special education by providing relevant services that guide positive systemic change and results thereby ensuring students with disabilities will live, learn, work and participate in their communities.

nasdse.org	NASDSE Issue	<u>@nasdse</u>	@NASDSE	<u>NASDSE</u>	<u>NASDSE</u>
	<u>Briefs</u>				<u>YouTube</u>

	Newsletters/Wel		Social Media					
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National Hea	ad Start Associat	ion (NHSA)						
The National	Head Start Asso	ciation (NHSA) is a	nonprofit orga	anization com	mitted to t	he belief that ϵ	every child,	
regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to succeed in life. NHSA is the voice for more than 1 million								
children, 245	5,000 staff and 1,	600 Head Start gra	intees in the U	nited States. S	Since 1974,	NHSA has wor	rked	

the whole child, the family and the community.											
nhsa.org	Events and News	Get Involved (membership)	<u>@NatlHeadS</u> <u>tart</u>	@NatlHead Start	<u>@natlhe</u> <u>adstart</u>	<u>NHSA</u>	National Head Start				

diligently for policy changes that ensure all at-risk children have access to the Head Start model of support for

National Women's Law Center (NWLC)

The National Women's Law Center advances gender justice in the courts, in the states, in the press, in our movement, and in Congress and our federal government—working across issues that are central to the lives of women and girls. We use the law in all its forms to change culture and drive solutions toward gender equity.

nwlc.org	Our Work	<u>@nwlc</u>	<u>@nwlc</u>	@nation	<u>National</u>	<u>NWLC</u>
				<u>alwomen</u>	Women's	<u>Media</u>
				<u>slawcent</u>	<u>Law Center</u>	
				<u>er</u>		

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Start Early

Start Early was founded in 1982 as the Ounce of Prevention Fund, a nonprofit public-private partnership. Since the beginning, Start Early has delivered best-in-class doula, home visiting and Early Head Start and Head Start programs and advocated for thoughtful policies and adequate funding at the local, state, and federal levels. From Start Early's roots directly serving families and children on Chicago's South Side and rural Illinois, the organization has expanded nationwide impacting early childhood programs and policies with partnerships in 25 states. Start Early's role as on-the-ground practitioners continues to be the bedrock of our expertise and source of innovation and leadership in the field.

www.star	<u>tea</u>	<u>Email</u>	@StartEarly	@StartEarl	@startea	<u>StartEarly</u>
rly.org/wh	nat-		org	<u>yOrg</u>	rlyorg	<u>Org</u>
we-do/						
policy-						
<u>advocacy</u>						

ZERO TO THREE

ZERO TO THREE works to ensure that babies and toddlers benefit from the early connections that are critical to their well-being and development.

zerotothree.	Member	Policy Network	@ZEROTOT	@ZEROTOT	@zeroto	Zero To	ZERO TO
org/policy-	Connect		<u>HREE</u>	<u>HREE</u>	<u>three</u>	<u>Three</u>	<u>THREE</u>
and-							
<u>advocacy</u>							