



Key Organizations Dedicated to Birth to Five

Contact and use the information provided by these groups to connect with others in your community to facilitate exposure to literacy and other educational materials for children birth to five years old.

Born Learning

<http://bornlearning.org/default.aspx?id=33>

Born Learning is a collaborative effort designed to facilitate learning in all childhood experiences. This site is especially useful for parents and child care providers in providing constant learning opportunities for children within the context of day-to-day activities. Discover how to create or join an already existing Born Learning campaign in your local community by entering your zipcode under the campaign tab. Click on *About Learning* and scroll down to the bottom for "What is early learning?", a document about what children should be experiencing to receive the best preparation for their future (a project of the Mind in the Making, www.mindinthemaking.org).

Bright Futures: Prevention and health promotion for infants, children, adolescents, and their families.

<http://brightfutures.aap.org/web/>

Facilitate the development of a healthy lifestyle that optimizes learning potential through resources offered to health professionals, families and communities. Specialized materials for each group outline the critical aspects of care and development that enable healthy futures for young children.

C.I.R.C.L.E.

<http://www.uth.tmc.edu/circle/index.html>

The State Center for Early Childhood Development provides information related to research and effective practices in early childhood education and care for parents and providers. Check out *Training* for a view of critical early literacy skills that can be implemented by childcare providers and parents. Learn about projects the State Center is working on, including the Texas Early Education Model (TEEM) and the Children's Learning Institute.

Docs For Tots

<http://www.docsfortots.org/>

Doctors, medical professionals and medical students have the opportunity to become active early childhood advocates through the resources and support offered by Docs For Tots. Get connected to advocacy organizations in your area to coordinate messages and programs that encourage families to approach early childhood with the care that young children deserve. The combined strength of health experts and advocacy groups is ideal for creating significant changes in how we view and foster early childhood development that will have lasting positive outcomes.

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

<http://naeyc.org/default.asp>

Research from NAEYC includes articles on critical issues in early childhood development as well as an accredited childcare provider locator tool. The *Public Policy* section will keep you up to date about shifts in law and regulation related to early childhood education at the state and federal levels.

Parents' Action for Children

<http://www.parentsaction.org/>

Empowered parents and concerned citizens look here for ways to get involved in the policy side of child advocacy. Click on *Take Action* and be sure to check out the **Education Begins at Home Act**—a federal bill designed to increase in-home guidance and support for parents—and show your commitment to the education and care of young children starting with their earliest experiences in the home. Opportunities for action relating to child health care coverage are also available for working toward change at the national level.

Parents as Teachers National Center

<http://www.parentsasteachers.org/site/pp.asp?c=ekIRLcMZJxE&b=272091>

Parents as Teachers has created programs for parents and professionals to implement in local communities to ensure that children reach their full potential. Based on early childhood education and development research, Parents as Teachers offers advocacy resources as well as tools for becoming an active participant in parent education at home and in Washington, D.C. Visit the *Action Center* for updates on current legislative activity relating to early childhood.

Pediatricians and Health Professionals: Get Involved with the AAP!

<http://www.healthychildcare.org/EECCSIG.cfm>

Members of the health care community are encouraged to become involved at the local or national level with councils devoted to the improvement of pediatric childcare. A link to other professionals in your area who are committed to this issue is a great way to jump start coalition building in support of quality health care for young children.

Reach Out and Read Texas

<http://www.uth.tmc.edu/rortx/home.html>

Reach Out and Read Texas provides young children with books when they visit the doctor. Learn more about how to volunteer, find a program location near you, or develop your own program.

Texans Care For Children

<http://www.texanscareforchildren.org/index.php>

Issues and advocacy come together in this organization to help you make the most of your ability to create positive change for children across the state. For how-to lessons on being an active citizen, be sure to visit the *Advocacy 101* and *Membership* sections of this site. Click on *Issue Areas*, then *Early Care and Education* for the facts that are propelling this statewide initiative to support efforts to improve the quality of and access to early care and education.

ZERO TO THREE: National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families

<http://www.zerotothree.org/>

ZERO TO THREE provides parents and professionals with tools and resources for understanding early childhood development. Take a look at the *Brain Wonders* section for information about early brain and literacy development and access the tools for decoding the behaviors of young children.