



# Talking Points and messages for legislator visits during the Week of the Young Child

April 22 – 28, 2007

The Week of the Young Child (WOYC) - April 22 - 28, 2007 – was established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children over 30 years ago. The Week provides an opportunity “to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment--at home, at child care, at school, and in the community--that will promote their early learning.” We celebrate the Week of the Young Child to:

- Highlight the need to invest in high-quality early education;
- Engage state legislators in programs in their districts; and
- Raise community awareness of the importance of high-quality early education.

## **Invest in Early Education: Ensure All Children Get The Start They Deserve.**

With the creation of the consolidated Department of Early Education and Care in 2005 and the allocation of pilot funding for the Massachusetts Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program in the FY07 budget, the state has laid the foundation for responsible, accountable and effective investment in high-quality early learning opportunities for young children.

In order to achieve the promise of universal, high-quality early education, the Early Education for All Campaign recommends new investments in the FY08 budget to:

- Begin the implementation of the Massachusetts Universal Pre-Kindergarten (MA UPK) Program, starting with low-income children;
- Strengthen the current foundation of early education and care programs;
- Improve professional development opportunities for early educators; and
- Expand access to full-day public school kindergarten.

[Click here for EEA's FY 08 Budget Recommendations.](#)

## **Early Education: An Investment with Extraordinary Returns**

### **It's Good for Children**

Children who participate in high-quality early education programs:

- Are 40% less likely to repeat a grade, 30% more likely to graduate from high school and more than twice as likely to go to college;
- Are better prepared for kindergarten, especially in the areas of pre-reading, pre-math and social skills;
- Develop better language skills, score higher on school readiness tests and have fewer behavioral problems once they enter school;
- As adults, have higher median annual earnings and are more likely to be homeowners.

### **It's Good for Families**

- 61% of Massachusetts children under the age of six have all parents in the labor force. Access to high-quality, reliable, affordable early education and care is essential for families.

### **It's Good for the Economy**

- Investments in high-quality early education yield an estimated 16% for every dollar invested.
- When children participate in high-quality programs, their families' increased ability to be employed results in higher household incomes, which in turn lead to benefits for the entire community.
- Early education helps ensure an adequate supply of productive and capable workers.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy O'Leary, Deputy Campaign Director, at 617-330-7384 or [aoleary@earlyeducationforall.org](mailto:aoleary@earlyeducationforall.org) or visit [www.earlyeducationforall.org](http://www.earlyeducationforall.org) for more information.



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