

What constitutes quality early education and care and what are solutions to gaps in services for children and families?

Group 1

Top Priorities

- EDUCATION, TRAINING and COMPENSATION OF WORKFORCE
 - Intentional emotional availability
 - Staff that emulates respect, confidence and joy in learning, praise and fostering social/emotional growth
 - Continuity of care
 - Well prepared educators
 - Living wage and stable workforce
 - Leadership and supervision (pre and in service)
 - Knowledge about the cultures and their learning styles
 - Engaging families-advocates
- QRIS (Quality rating improvement System)
 - Healthy physical environment
 - Better coordinated standards
 - Supporting families
- PUBLICLY FUNDED QUALITY UNIVERSAL EEC (MIXED DELIVERY)

Barriers

- Economics/expense
- Educators do not take the time to get to know the individual
- Too much emphasis on data collection, rating scales (duplicity of NAEYC/state agency/QIRS) yet no monitoring on going
- Continuing the role beyond EEC but connecting to other agencies ie public schools, ratios of staff/children in elementary school
- Parental knowledge about what to look for in a center
- Common language-critical for political weight
- Fragmentation of care

Strategies

- PUBLICLY(WELL) FUNDED QUALITY UNIVERSAL EEC (MIXED DELIVERY)
 - Complete school at 17yrs; move 12th grade funding to EEC
 - Demonstrate savings to create political will- use of data that business community will have qualified workers
 - Business leaders fund a pilot which demonstrates impact
 - Identify where savings might occur and shift money eg Head Start, EI
 - Engage industry to partner effectively

Strategies

- EDUCATION, TRAINING and COMPENSATION OF WORKFORCE
 - Provide money for in/pre-service training thru non profits such as Jumpstart
 - Educated workforce shifts to public schools thus combine workforces
 - State/Public/Private investments in training the workforce
 - Unionize early childhood educators (eg freelancers union)
 - Educate parents/people about the science of early brain development-critical nature of early brain development
 - Loan repayment/sliding scale
 - Take education where students are
 - Ballot initiatives
 - Tax breaks for EEC

Other ideas

- Engaging parents- workshops, parent academy, interpreters
- Mixing diversity at all centers
- Voluntary recognition (DPH)
- Relative value of competition
- Extend childcare out into community-consistency
- Linkage with schools