



MEDIA ALERT

Feb. 23, 2010

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Advocacy Day Aims to Protect; Invest in Kids

Who: CT Early Childhood Alliance, statewide partners, advocates, children and their parents. Also expected to attend: Sen. Don Williams (D- Brooklyn), Rep. Beth Bye (D-West Hartford) and Rep. Michelle Cook (D-Torrington)

Where: Room 310, State Capitol

When: March 3, 2010, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

What: Early care/education advocates, children and their parents will converge on the Capitol to speak one-on-one with lawmakers, urging them to protect direct-service programs and encourage them to continue to invest in programs that impact children, even in the current economic environment.

Preserve existing programs: Urge lawmakers to fully fund core early care and education programs, such as state funded child development centers, state funded Head Start, school readiness programs, family resource centers, child support services and child health and safety programs. There is a continued concern regarding the preservation of programs aimed at improving early childhood outcomes such as: early childhood community planning funds, early literacy funds, Nurturing Families, Parent Trust Fund and programs that promote a quality workforce.

Today, many children lack even the most basic necessities to grow up healthy and ready to succeed in school. Gaps in health care, including dental, social, emotional and behavioral health, affect an alarming number of Connecticut's children.

On March 3, Alliance members will advocate for strategies that will help improve the lives of young children in the state and for their safety, health and educational development.

At approximately 10:15 a.m., Senate President Pro Tem Don Williams will sit down with 100 children and read "Ten Apples Up on Top," by Dr. Seuss.

This segment of the day ties in the early literacy component of early care and education and celebrates "Read Across America Day," which many child development centers and schools across the country will celebrate en mass on March 2. Each child will have his/her own copy of the book to follow along with Senator Williams.