

# **A Dozen Ways to Advocate for Young Children and Families**

## **Durham's Partnership for Children**

1. Support leadership that cares for young children and their families.
2. Know the issues affecting young children and their families on local, state and federal levels. Read the local paper. Find out how legislative decisions impact young children and families. Follow important issues during the legislative session as hot political issues often get introduced as legislative bills and can be ratified into law or voted out quickly.
3. Build your knowledge base today. Sign up for free email alerts through Durham's Partnership for Children's website [www.dpfc.net](http://www.dpfc.net) or [champions4youngchildren.net](http://champions4youngchildren.net).
4. Join North Carolina Child Care Coalition, an organization that represents early childhood educators across the state.
5. Attend a Tuesdays for Tots visit (May 19, 2009) to talk with legislators.
6. If you are a Chamber member, attend State and Local Legislative Committee meetings to ensure the county has a focus on early care and education. If you are not a member, consider joining to have your voice heard.
7. Contact your local County Commissioners to ask for their support in making early care and education a priority for our county.
8. Volunteer your time to help organizations that serve young children, especially around an issue or service you care about. Write a letter to a legislator or the media.
9. Engaging the public around key issues takes time and resources. Help pass along important information within your networks to engage more people to care about services for young children.
10. If you know a young child that has been impacted by a local service that supported his or her success in kindergarten, urge the family to voice their story with their legislators and media.
11. Donate to advocacy organizations. Donations make it possible for advocacy efforts to happen. Non profits must use unrestricted funds for advocacy activities.
12. When decisions are pending and you receive a call for help, call, email, write, or visit your local legislators and voice your concern/support. Most often, you have to act fast!