

Time for R.E.C.E.S.S.? Time for Action!

naeyc[®]

National Association for the
Education of Young Children

Tools for Talking to Your Members of Congress About Child Care During August Recess

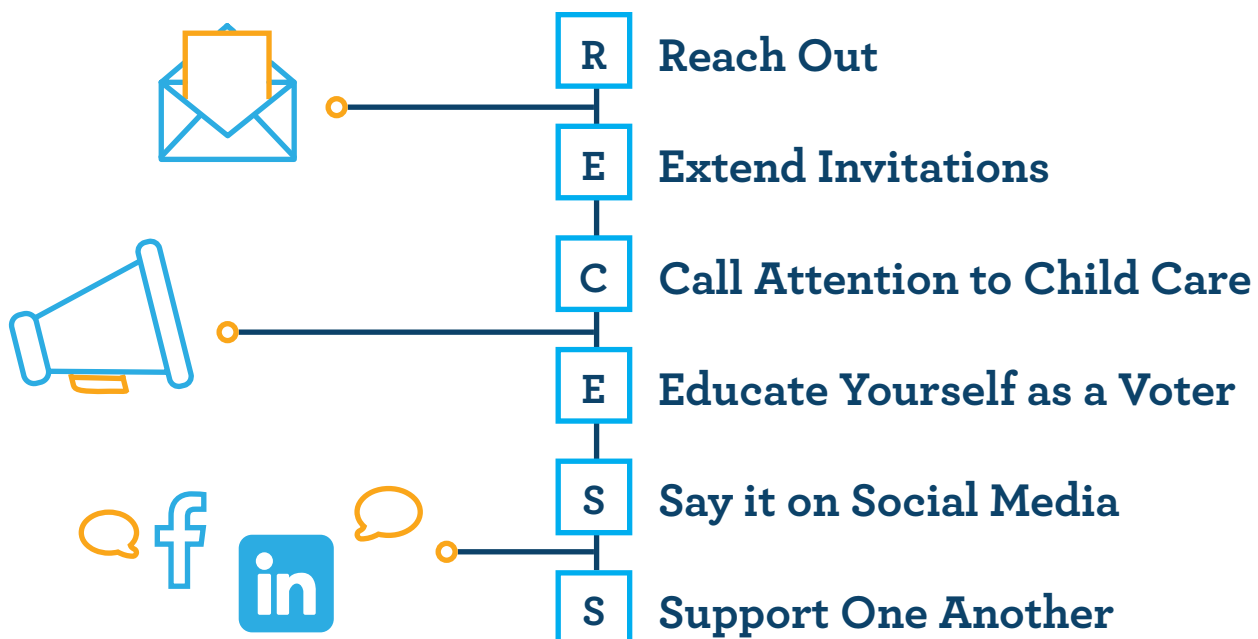


Early childhood educators know all about the importance of recess!

But we're not talking about the kind where children play outside. Instead, we're talking about August recess, when members of Congress return home on break—which can be just as important for ensuring children's healthy development.

This moment offers a key opportunity to connect your voice with elected officials outside of Washington, DC, and in your communities. This year, we're focused on making sure all members of Congress understand the importance of increasing investments in child care and early education—and why sustained investment is needed. We hope you'll take advantage of recess opportunities to share how children, families, educators, and businesses benefit when families have access to high-quality child care.

Keep reading to find out how you can use your voice this August R.E.C.E.S.S. to support children, families, and educators in your community.



R

Reach Out

Find the local office contact information for your [member of Congress](#) or state legislators. Request a meeting, attend a town hall, or connect at a community event.

Use these opportunities to share how key child care and early learning issues affect you, your colleagues, and the families you serve—and to build on the bipartisan commitment to early childhood education by growing investments in the field.

E

Extend Invitations

Invite elected officials or candidates to visit a high-quality program in a child care center or home-based child care setting, or engage with educators and communities through town halls and candidate forums.

These opportunities help connect policy conversations to the real experiences of children, families, and the early childhood workforce—and the communities these programs support.

- [Sample Invitations to a Member of Congress to Conduct a Site Visit](#)
- [How to Organize an Early Learning Site Visit for a Policy Maker](#)
- [Guide to Hosting a Nonpartisan Candidate Forum](#)

C

Call Attention to Child Care

Share national, state, and local media stories with your elected officials—or [write an op-ed or letter to the editor](#)—to highlight why early childhood education matters and why continued investment in the field and its workforce is needed.

Serve as a trusted resource by sharing data, research, and lived experience to help policymakers better understand the field and the communities served, including NAEYC resources such as [ECE Workforce surveys](#) and [state fact sheets](#).

Questions? Email advocacy@naeyc.org for help getting started.

E

Educate Yourself as a Voter

Take time this summer to confirm or update your voter registration and learn about upcoming elections in your locality.

Understanding who is running for office and where candidates stand on issues affecting early childhood education helps you make informed decisions and stay engaged in the process.

[Check your registration](#) and find your [state's voting rules and deadlines](#).

S

Say it on Social Media

Use social media to share your experience in early childhood education and highlight why the workforce and the field need continued investment.

Post in your own voice—about your daily work, what it takes to support children and families, and what needs to change—and tag your members of Congress or candidates to help bring visibility to these issues.

Sharing educator voices helps ensure early childhood education stays part of the public conversation across platforms.

S

Support One Another

Encourage a colleague to take one step this summer—whether that's sharing their story, attending a community event, connecting with an elected official, or checking their voter registration.

Small actions build collective momentum, and supporting one another helps ensure more early childhood educators' voices are part of the conversation.