



New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council

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Vision

All young children are healthy, learning, and thriving in families that are supported by a full complement of services and resources essential for successful development.

Mission

The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) provides strategic direction and advice to the State of New York on early childhood issues. By monitoring and guiding the implementation of a range of strategies, the ECAC supports New York in building a comprehensive and sustainable early childhood system that will ensure success for all young children.

Guiding Principles

The ECAC defines a comprehensive early childhood system as a unified network of public and private supports and services that together prepare young children for success in school and life. Essential components of New York's system include early care and education, physical health, social-emotional development, and family support and education.

In their efforts to develop a comprehensive early childhood system to support New York's young children and their families, the members of the ECAC are guided by the following principles:

- New York's plan encompasses all children and all families with recognition of the diversity of cultures, languages, abilities, and family structures.
- Healthy development includes the intertwined domains of physical health, oral health, cognition, and social-emotional development. The underpinnings of healthy development begin before birth.
- Parents and families are the most influential people in a child's life. The term 'parent' includes all people with primary responsibility for nurturing children.
- Families are best supported with strong public policy and services promoting economic stability, self-sufficiency, and strong and resilient relationships.
- New York's plan can only be achieved by building connections among state, regional, and community strengths and by integrating resources into one unified system that works for children and families.