

# TIPS FOR WRITING LETTERS TO YOUR LEGISLATORS



- **Be polite;** address legislators as “Representative Smith” or “Senator Jones”
- **Introduce yourself** and your family
- Share where you live and, if appropriate, where your child is in care
- **Speak from the heart!** Tell a brief story, such as:
  - Share one of the **biggest challenges you face as a parent of a young child** (e.g., finding and affording child care, accessing health and other services for your young child(ren), etc.).
  - Describe your hopes/wishes for a community and state **that support young children and their families**. Be specific if you can.
  - Tell us about your family’s experiences **during the pandemic** (e.g., child care, your family's well-being, etc.).
  - If your child has benefitted from participation in a particular program or initiative (e.g., *Quality Rated* child care, Head Start, Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) scholarship, PeachCare for Kids, Babies Can’t Wait, etc.), be sure to mention it.
- **Make an ask!** See below for suggestions
- **Thank them** for their service

## TOPIC

## WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

## POTENTIAL ASKS



### High-Quality Early Learning

High-quality early care and learning supports Georgia's youngest learners by increasing school readiness, improving health and well-being, and supporting working families. However, many families struggle to afford high-quality child care.

- **Increase access to affordable early care and learning**, particularly for Georgia's most vulnerable young children, through programs such as CAPS and Georgia's Pre-K.
- **Improve the quality of early learning** by supporting initiatives such as Quality Rated, Georgia's quality rating and improvement system for child care.



### Social-Emotional Health

Research demonstrates that early prevention and treatment are vital to treating emotional difficulties in infants and toddlers.

- Invest in growing Georgia's **early childhood mental health workforce**.
- Provide families with the resources and information they need to best support their young children through initiatives like **evidence-based home visiting**.



### Family Support

Babies' brains develop through their early earliest experiences and relationships. Providing opportunities for caregivers to bond with their young children in the earliest months of life supports healthy brain development.

- Increase the amount of time parents and caregivers have to bond with their babies through practices such as **paid family leave**.
- Expand **financial supports** for families, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit.

# YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS



**YOUR NAME:**

**YOUR ADDRESS:**

*NOTE: This was the address you provided during registration. If this is not your home address, go to [www.openstates.org/find\\_your\\_legislator](http://www.openstates.org/find_your_legislator) to find your state senator (upper chamber) and state representative (lower chamber).*

**YOUR STATE SENATOR:**

**YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE:**

