



**GEEARS**  
GEORGIA EARLY EDUCATION  
ALLIANCE FOR READY STUDENTS

**STROLLING THUNDER**™  
Georgia

To learn more, visit [www.gears.org](http://www.gears.org)  
#StrollingThunderGA

## **SAMPLE LETTERS**

*Please refer to the letter writing tips sheet for additional ideas of what to write about.*

Dear Representative Smith,

My name is Sandra Jones, and I live in Brunswick, GA with my two children (ages 3 and 6 months). I'm writing to you today to share what families like mine have been experiencing throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In June of 2020, I made the difficult decision to leave my job as a teller at a local bank to provide full-time care for my children. For three years, my oldest had been attending a child care program we all loved. Unfortunately, after two months of temporary shutdowns, navigating teaching shortages, and no steady income, they were forced to close their doors permanently. We were eventually able to find another child care program, but then I had to start my job search from scratch.

Please help working families access and afford quality child care.

Best,  
Sandra Jones

---

Dear Senator Jones,

My name is Laila Abadi and I live in Gainesville, GA with my husband and four kids (ages 1, 4, 5 and 6). Ten days after my son was born, I had to return to my job in the food industry. I was exhausted, in physical pain, and wanted nothing more than to bond with my new baby, but I also had bills to pay. Access to paid family leave would have benefitted my own physical and mental health and the well-being of our whole family.

Thank you for your time,  
Laila Abadi

---

Dear Representative Park,

My name is Liya Ahmad and I live in Stone Mountain, GA with my two kids (Layla, age 4 and Zara, age six months). I applied for CAPS 6 times before finally becoming eligible for a child care scholarship



**GEEARS**  
GEORGIA EARLY EDUCATION  
ALLIANCE FOR READY STUDENTS

**STROLLING THUNDER**<sup>TM</sup>  
Georgia

To learn more, visit [www.geears.org](http://www.geears.org)  
#StrollingThunderGA

for my youngest daughter. It has made all the difference in the world. I've been able to finish my degree and search for a job after graduation while knowing my child is being loved and cared for.

Thanks,  
Liya

---

Dear Representative Carter,

My name is LaToya Smith, and I live in Valdosta, GA with my three children: Jace (6), Zion (3), and Zoe, (18 months). What I would like to share with you is how difficult the past few years have been for our family and for so many other parents with young children.

The pandemic has made the stress of raising young children even more pronounced. It feels like each day I am faced with another impossible series of decisions. I never know if I am going to have reliable child care, and I agonize over how to protect my children's health and safety. I'm simply exhausted, and I worry about the pandemic's toll on my and my children's mental health and well-being. As there seems to be growing awareness of the importance of mental health, I hope you and other elected officials will consider how to meet the needs of both caregivers like me and our young children.

Sincerely,  
LaToya Smith