



Keiki Focus

News

14 October 2008



Inform Yourself...For Children

Because of our non-profit tax status, Good Beginnings Alliance is prohibited from engaging in any political activity in support of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Forward to a Friend



If you find this email informative, please take a moment to forward it to colleagues and friends.

We encourage you to *inform yourself* about each candidate's position on pre-k and early childhood programs when it comes to casting your votes for candidates locally and nationally. We do not endorse or oppose candidates or their proposals. If Early Education is not a part of a candidate's platform, start asking. We know this is an important issue and we need to make it one on the political scene as well.

Get Involved

Your support is appreciated in whatever form it takes: contacting your legislator, passing news on to family and friends, or rolling up your sleeves and volunteering.

If you wish to support GBA financially in its efforts at policy advocacy or data collection, please visit our [Donation Page](#) today.

Mahalo!

[Visit Our Website](#)

Below, check out the details of the presidential candidates' recommendations. Please educate your friends and family about this important issue.

[Read Sen. McCain's statement on early education](#)

[Read Sen. Obama's statement on early education](#)

PreK Does Well At The Polls

In a recent public opinion [survey](#), [PreK Now](#) found strong support for early education regardless of political sides:

- Almost 7 in 10 voters want state and local governments to provide voluntary pre-k for all children, including those from middle-class families.
- A solid majority (56 percent) of voters said that federal, state, and local governments are doing too little to make sure that all children have access to affordable pre-k programs.



5 C's For Our Keiki: A Catalyst for Change

An engaged group of early childhood and elementary teachers gathered together last week to build relationships and learn about the 5 C's: Compassion, Culture, Change, Connection and Continuity. [INPEACE](#) brought together these Wai`anae educators to help develop collaborative partnerships that reach from the early years through the elementary grades to support our keiki and families in their learning. Conference attendees enjoyed workshops from seasoned local educators and worked

together by community to solve real on the job dilemmas for each other. A follow up conference and blog are still to come...

Big Words Are Worth More for Kids

Recent findings suggest children can learn "hard" words without learning the simple ones first. A Harvard Education Letter [article](#) shares the importance of early educators using high-level vocabulary with children. Learning and understanding these words should be linked with experience, not just through definitions. The article suggests that children can develop a better understanding of abstract concepts and a foundation for general academic success when exposed to "high-level talk and rich vocabulary". Pre K Now brought our attention to this article and, as they mentioned in their PreK Picks, "this makes the use of play-based curricula, which take advantage of experiential learning, that much more important in pre-k programs."



The Science of Early Childhood

Last month at Harvard, researchers in neuroscience, psychology, medicine, and biology joined policymakers to enlighten each other about what can make early childhood programs effective, how to measure and improve quality, and lessons learned from state and government. [The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University](#) gathered scientists along with teams of state legislators, gubernatorial advisors, and business and civil leaders for its National Symposium on Early Childhood Science and Policy. View [presentations and webcasts](#) from the symposium.

Waiting for Care

"As of early 2007, an estimated 365,617 children nationwide were on the waiting list for subsidized childcare." - National Fact Sheet 2008 Child Welfare League of America



The National Collaboration for Youth cites this telling statistic in their recently released agenda, [Toward a Brighter Future: An Essential Agenda for America's Young People](#). Check out page 4 to see what this group, which includes Big Brothers & Big Sisters of America, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, National Healthy Start Association, Save the Children, United Way of America and many more prominent national organizations, has on their Early Childhood agenda.

Tell Us What You Think

If you found something particularly useful, interesting, or would like to see more of a particular type of information in our Keiki Focus, please let us know! Reply to this email with your ideas and suggestions.

Good Beginnings Alliance is a nonprofit organization working in partnership with families, communities, policy makers, early childhood providers and advocates to shape community will and public policy, mobilize action and maximize resources for Hawai'i's children. Good Beginnings Alliance is a member of [Voices for America's Children](#)

Forward email

✉ SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to kwynkoop@goodbeginnings.org by info@goodbeginnings.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Good Beginnings Alliance | 33 S. King Street, Suite 200 | Honolulu | HI | 96826