

April 3, 2020

To whom it may concern,

The membership of the National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers (N4C)¹ would like to voice support for the continued presence, whether physical or virtual, of Campus Children's Centers, during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our members include early care and education program administrators, teachers, and faculty all of whom are directly associated with a higher education, campus based early childhood program. These programs include child care centers and laboratory schools where future early childhood teachers receive training. While each program possesses unique qualities, the membership of N4C share a passion for doing what is best for children, student parents and the community at large. N4C is strongly committed to supporting families, administrators, teachers and faculty during this crisis.

As leaders in the field of early childhood, campus programs are models of high quality programming for the larger community. N4C members are dedicated to ensuring that families receive the highest quality early education and care for their children and have access to parenting resources to support them in achieving their academic and career goals while juggling family responsibilities.

We believe that the following ideals are foundational to the emerging early education system that will serve our country's children and families:

- Early childhood is a unique and critical stage of life for children birth through age 8 years. Brain research tells us that children at this stage develop at a rate faster than any other stage of life. Early childhood experiences provide the foundation upon which future life experiences and successes are built. While families are quarantined at home, it provides a unique experience for parents to provide rich life experiences to their children while they are at home with them.

¹ The National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers is a nonprofit educational membership organization. N4C supports research and activities affecting college and university Early Childhood Education and service settings, family and work issues, and the field of Early Childhood in general.

- Parents are the child's first teachers. Parenting young children is a unique and often stressful time in a family's development. Resources must be available for parents/families to support them as they embrace the joys and manage the challenges of raising children while also working from home. Partnerships with highly qualified early childhood educators can mutually impact the success of this learning at home.

N4C's member are uniquely qualified to:

- Share expertise and resources with families to continue to provide rich early childhood experiences for children while at home.
- Collaborate with families to ensure every child receives the care and education they need to become confident, competent individuals.

Early childhood is the beginning of the journey of life. Every experience in this stage is a brick in the foundation of future learning experiences and academic success. Our children deserve a commitment from parents, educators, and public officials to providing the best possible start in life. Providing every child with the opportunities needed to achieve his/her fullest human potential requires a significant commitment from providers and families during this critical time in our country.

N4C is an organization with the expertise and passion committed to ensuring that the standard for early childhood education remains committed to building relationships between the higher education environment and the community, for the benefit of all.

Respectfully,

Stacey Smith-Clark, MA
N4C President