

Why High-Quality Early Care and Education is Important

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- Research shows that 90 percent of brain development occurs from birth through five years of age.
- Studies show that children who receive high-quality early care enter school with better math, language and social skills.
- It enables parents to work, reduces parental stress and increases work performance.
- Fostering a healthy, successful, future workforce – which starts in the earliest years of life – is essential to children's, families', communities', society's and our nation's well-being.

"Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future."

– President John F. Kennedy



Child Care Council of Suffolk History

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A vision for a Child Care Council of Suffolk was conceived long before the defining reality. A group of dedicated child care professionals incorporated and operated in a limited way as the Day Care Council of Suffolk, Inc. in 1972. The group functioned primarily as a coalition of child care providers who shared information and advocated for policy and legislative changes. Working out of a tiny attic room at the Bay Shore Day Care Center, the agency amended its Certificate of Incorporation, thereby changing its name to the Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc. (CCCS) on December 30, 1983. With founder Janet Walerstein at the helm, CCCS rapidly expanded over the succeeding decades through the acquisition of corporate and foundation funding, New York State Legislative grants and County funding administered by Suffolk DSS. In 2011, the Child Care Council of Suffolk became only the second agency in the nation to achieve National Quality Assurance Accreditation – establishing CCCS as one of the leading child care resource and referral agencies in the country. Today, the Child Care Council of Suffolk remains the leading educational resource and referral service and advocate for quality early care and education to become an integral part of society for the children and families throughout all of Suffolk County's diverse communities.



"Early childhood development drives success in school and life."

–James Heckman, Nobel Prizewinning economist



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Who We Are

Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc. is the not-for-profit planning and coordinating agency dedicated to making child care work for all of Suffolk County's diverse communities. Through advocacy, education and resource and referral, the Council takes a leadership role in supporting children, families, providers, employers and the public to ensure that quality child care takes its place as an integral part of society.



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Whom We Serve

PARENTS*

- Educates parents about the different types of child care and how to be good consumers of early care.
- Refers parents to legal child care.
- Informs parents about financial resources: child care subsidies and tax benefits.
- Instructs parents how to become leading advocates for children through the Parent Leadership Initiative (PLI).
- Advocates at the local, state and national levels for increased early care funding and for policy issues regarding the child care industry.
- Inspects and registers family child care homes.
- Monitors programs for compliance with New York State regulations.
- Investigates complaints to maintain compliance with New York State regulations in Suffolk County's family child care homes and school age child care (SACC).
- Supports parents and children to succeed in school and life.

EARLY CARE PROFESSIONALS*

- Assists with the development of early care centers and with the registration of family child care homes and school age child care (SACC).
- Provides ongoing training, education and technical assistance for early care professionals.
- Offers specialized training for early care professionals who serve the infant/toddler population.
- Provides best practices guidance on healthy nutrition through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).



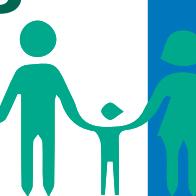
LONG ISLAND'S ECONOMY

Currently, more than \$800 million is spent annually on Long Island for child care. The Child Care Council of Suffolk's initiatives are an integral part of Long Island's child care industry – an economic engine that:

- Enables more parents to work.
- Helps businesses recruit and retain employees.
- Employs approximately 9,000 individuals – larger than many other local occupations.
- Spends money that stays on Long Island and bolsters the regional economy.
- Drives additional federal and state dollars into the local economy.
- Promotes economic growth and reduces deficits.

Child Care Council of Suffolk by the Numbers

Handled more than **4,983 REQUESTS** for child care information.



Supported **318 Family/Group Family Child Care** programs that served **2,910 children** through the **CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM'S (CACFP)** best practices guidelines for healthy nutrition.

Offered education, technical assistance and support to **2,261 EARLY CARE PROFESSIONALS**.



Conducted **1,092 INSPECTIONS** of proposed or existing early care programs.

Offered PARENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (PLI) programs in Babylon, Brookhaven, Huntington, Islip and Southampton with **79 GRADUATES**.

Provided **2,641 REFERRALS** to families for child care.

Presented **482 workshops, trainings and conferences** with more than **5,671 ATTENDEES**.

Produced and distributed in excess of **25,000 educational materials, newsletters and reports**.