

I am very pleased Governor Dannel Malloy is creating the Early Childhood Office. Many agencies that deal with children and different aspects of their lives will be brought together. Their being able to work together, and not have to duplicate dealing with numerous issues will help. As a 17 year volunteer for two Stamford Head Start Classes, often parents worked many jobs and had other issues to deal with. These children needed to become familiar with basics such as shapes, colors, and days of the week. Parents being so busy often did not have the time to read to their children, count or go over some letters. Putting the various aspects the parents often struggled with together will simplify obtaining access to needed forms of assistance.

I trust the observations of the teachers far more than a test administered at the beginning and end of the year. No Child Left Behind would hope to show children knew more letters or numbers over time. A 3-5 year old might have a bad day, so might not be able to recognize as many letters than on another day.

How might this office, or other actions the CT Government takes encourage or possibly train parents to help their children in some of these ways? I know a child's first teachers are their parents. Playing, drawing, and pretending with other children are a child's work. Becoming comfortable with other children gets them ready to enter school. Pay now, or more later!

Investing in Education especially early pays off in the end. They are less likely to drop out of school and get involved in the Juvenile Justice System. Those in school and learning well are healthier than others. Eventually, these children will be future workers, citizens, and leaders. Some may have very interesting ideas and possibly invent something.

Sincerely,

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