

CHILD CARE RECOMMENDATIONS

August 7, 2020



From the New York Times...

The duality of the conversations around child care programs and public schools is rooted in a perceived gap between what “care” and “education” mean. That gap has set the two sectors on different paths of funding, governance, and professional power.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/04/parenting/schools-day-care-children-divide.html>

The reality is that for children to be successful they need a mix of caring and nurturing, and development and learning, in safe child care settings *and* safe education settings.

Both are equally important for a child to thrive.

Recommendations *from the Children's Cabinet*

The Cabinet recognizes early care and education settings and professionals are essential.

1. **The Cabinet recommends early childhood care and education settings and professionals follow health and safety guidance published by the Centers for Disease Control, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas State Department of Education, and local health departments.** For children of all ages to be successful, they need nurturing, caring adults and equitable access to safe, high-quality educational opportunities. This is especially true for our youngest children, where brain development happens at an astonishing pace and their earliest learning opportunities are built not just in the home, but in quality child care and other early care settings.

The Cabinet recognizes the dual role families had to play last spring as both income-earners and educators.

While the needs of children have not changed, the COVID-19 pandemic has blurred the lines between these formal settings for families and challenged our entire early childhood care and education system.

2. **Given the ongoing pandemic conditions, the Cabinet recommends educators and early childhood providers in all settings focus on elevating family engagement, supporting access to services and programs that help families meet their basic needs, and providing social-emotional supports to promote resilience.**

- 3. Because many parents are also employees, the Cabinet recommends employers – including early childhood care and education employers – give the flexibility and support their employees need to navigate uncertainty and change by supporting family-friendly strategies and workplace policies.**
- 4. The Cabinet recommends that policymakers at federal, state, and local levels consider legislative action that facilitates these recommendations.**