

# IT'S ABOUT TIME!

## Advocating for Montana Child Care in only 5, 10, 30, and 60 Minutes!

Early childhood education professionals are essential to the healthy development of our children. But they can't do it alone. It takes a village to raise a child. Here are some ways for you to support child care in your community.



### Five Minute Actions

- [Register to Vote](#): Voting is the best way to make your voice heard!
- Find out who represents you at the local, state and national level
  - Find a Montana legislator who represents your district [here](#)
  - Contact Governor Steve Bullock [here](#)
- [Complete the 2020 Census](#): Make sure to count all children in your household. Our kids miss out on important federal funding when they are left out of the census. Follow the [Count all Kids](#) campaign for more resources and information.



### Ten Minute Actions

- Share your advocacy interests. Tell some of your friends why childcare and early learning issues matter to you and encourage them to take action, too!
  - Help them register to vote and find their representatives!
- Gather some community facts and data about child care to strengthen your message
  - [Montana Economy at a Glance: Understanding the Childcare Workforce](#)
  - [Community Impact of Childcare](#)
  - [County Fact Sheets on Childcare](#)
- Send a message to your legislator through the [Child Care Works Action Center](#)

For more support:  
[cccmontana.org](http://cccmontana.org)  
(406) 587-7786



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## Thirty Minute Actions

- Email or call your elected official or their staff to share your story and discuss their child care and early education priorities
  - Make sure to indicate you are a constituent
  - Have a specific "ask" ready when you make contact
- Encourage your employer to consider policies that support child care in your workplace. For more information, you can visit [Family Forward Montana](#)



## One Hour Actions

- VOTE! Learn where candidates stand on important child care issues and cast your vote in primary, midterm, and general elections.
- Keep exploring! Volunteering, fundraising, and educating our communities are all important ways to make a positive change for early childhood.

## Helpful Advocacy Resources

- [Child Care Aware](#): works to advance access to high quality affordable child care.
- [First Five Years Fund](#): through information, advocacy and outreach FFYF advances federal investment in early childhood education for disadvantaged children from birth to age five.
- [Zero to Three](#): is an advocacy group that promotes good health, strong families and positive early learning experiences for all infants and toddlers.
- [Zero to Five](#): is an advocacy group in Montana dedicated to giving children a great start in life.
- [National Child Care Association](#): is a trusted non-partisan voice for licensed child care providers of quality care. You can find links to US representatives as well as tips for how to communicate with them.
- [How to Advocate for Childcare from Home \(In 5 Steps!\)](#): use this guide for tips on how to contact your representatives and advocate for childcare in your community.
- [National Head Start Association](#): is an advocate for early childhood dedicated to serving the needs of every child.

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