



Let's Get Out the Vote!

TOP TEN ECE ACTIVITIES FOR THE ELECTION SEASON

1. **Register voters.** Encourage your staff and parents to register. Remind them that every vote counts. Keep voter registration forms in easily accessible common areas, have staff members distribute them to parents and/or designate a "VOTER REGISTRATION DAY" in your program. (Keep a stack of voter registration forms handy all the time; voter registration can be a year round process.)
2. **Educate yourself and others about candidate positions on early education.** Check out the First Up website at www.firstup.org. For gubernatorial and state legislative candidates, get their contact information from Project Vote Smart, ask for their early childhood positions, and publish the responses.
3. **Ask candidate questions.** Get questions about early childhood education into the public discourse. Send First Up's questions** to your local League of Women Voters. Attend a candidate forum and ask a question, or send a question with someone else.
4. **Talk** with staff and colleagues about the importance of voting and ways to participate in the political process.
5. **Create a buzz** about the elections. Send reminder emails to colleagues...add a G.O.T.V. tagline. Place flyers around the program publicizing Election Day and voting hours. Challenge parents and staff to each get five additional people to the polls; keep a public tally of committed voters.
6. **Involve the children.** Offer 4 and 5 year olds the opportunity to have a mock election/vote for something of interest to them (i.e. snack food or a special activity) a few weeks before the election. Then encourage parents to take their preschoolers with them as they vote. Children will see that we all have a voice!
7. **Wear a sticker** the day before the election encouraging people to vote. Use messages such as: "I'm voting on Election Day! Are you?" or "Kids can't VOTE, but WE can!"
8. **Send a goodie bag home** with children the week before, with information for parents about the election, and your program's plans for extended coverage on Election Day.
9. **Provide flexible hours on Election Day** to make it easier for parents and staff to vote before or after work.
10. **The one we missed?** Just let us know what you feel it should be--and we'll post it on the First Up website!

**Candidate Questions:

1. Four out of five Pennsylvania voters support providing early childhood education to all children in the state. What are your specific proposals for child care, Head Start, Pre-K and other early care and education programs serving young children?
2. Research consistently shows that investment in quality early childhood education repays the taxpayers many times over in the long term. In funding early childhood education, how would you balance current financial constraints with the potential for long-term savings to the public?

Resources:

- First Up, at www.firstup.org; for other ECE voter resources, or contact Khadijah (215.214.9697) Elizabeth (elizabeth.ozar@firstup.org) or Jackie (215-450-7361, jackie.groetsch@firstup.org)
- NAEYC's "Guide to Nonpartisan Voter Registration & G.O.T.V. Drives"; for resource materials at www.naeyc.org/our-work/public-policy-advocacy/gotv-activities-nonprofits
- Project Vote Smart; at <https://votesmart.org/officials>, for more information. Enter the politician or candidate's name, then click on "Bio", "Positions", "Votes" or "Ratings" to learn more.

First Up does not support or oppose any candidates for public office, and our voter registration services are available without regard to the voter's political preference. Information and other assistance regarding registering or voting, including transportation and other services offered, shall not be withheld or refused on the basis of support for or opposition to particular candidates or a particular party.