

# Tips for Meeting with Legislators



Scheduling a virtual meeting your legislators is one of the best ways to support early childhood as a priority in Minnesota. Thank you for making time to be an advocate for Minnesota's youngest learners. Below are few things to remember for your discussions.

**Tell your story!** Speak from your own experience. Talk about ways early learning programs have positively impacted you, your community, or the families you serve.

**You don't have to be an expert on early childhood development.** Legislators are not experts on every issue and you don't need to be either. Give a few clear reasons why you support early childhood development initiatives. If your legislator asks a question that you do not know the answer to, be honest with them and let them know you will get back to them with that information. After you have found the information, pass the information along to them with a call or email to their office.

## DURING THE MEETING

**1. Introduce Yourself** Tell your legislator or staff person your name, where you are from, and that you are a constituent. If you represent an organization, note its name and where the group is located, and the size of its membership.

**2. Make Connections** State clearly and concisely what issue you want to discuss, what your position is, and what action you want the member to take. Share relevant personal stories to help the legislator remember the issue. Share relevant facts to demonstrate why early childhood is important impacts the legislator's district.

**3. Bring information to leave with the Legislator** Email the legislator a brief fact sheet if you are with an organization that outlines your positions and relevant bills. If you are a parent, send along your child's art project for the rally. This will prolong the impact of your meeting.

**4. Be a Good Listener** After you make your pitch, allow the legislator to respond.

**5. Thank them for their time** Let your legislator know that they will be hearing from you again and thank them for speaking with you.

## AFTER THE MEETING

Send them a quick email thanking them again for their time and providing your contact information. This way, they know who to reach out to next time they have a question about early childhood!

