



A Huge Congratulations to our 2023 Child Care Heroes!

Legislators: Co-chairs of the NC Early Childhood Caucus

Representatives Ashton Clemmons and David Willis, and Senators Jim Burgin and Jay Chaudhuri were recognized for their long-time commitment to young children as Co-Chairs of the NC Early Childhood Caucus, as well as for their bi-partisan work on 10 bills to support early education during the 2023 legislative session.

Early education teacher: Tarvia Funderburk

Tarvia is a Master Teacher at Child Development Schools in Monroe, NC. Tarvia is an exceptional advocate for children, families and educators. She has advocated for issues impacting early education, particularly for increased funding for early childhood and increased wages for early educators.

Early Childhood Center administrator: Emma Biggs

Emma is the director at Pathway Preschool in Charlotte, NC. Emma is a tireless advocate for early childhood programs, and always goes above and beyond in everything that she does. She spent countless hours supporting child care providers to advocate for increased funding during 2023.

Parent Leader: Marilyn Bernabe

Marilyn is a parent of two young children who has been flexing her advocacy muscles at the local, state, and national levels. Marilyn and her family were selected to represent NC at Zero to Three's national Strolling Thunder event, where they were able to share their personal story at the main event rally with everyone present.

Family Child Care Provider: Shalicia "Shay" Jackson

Shay is a family child care home operator in Forsyth County. She is an inspiration and mentor to the Family Child Care community, and has been instrumental in bringing awareness of the needs of Family Child Care Homes to the forefront while truly caring about providers' mental, emotional, and social well-being.

Community Leader: Stephanie Smith

Stephanie is a community organizer with the Domestic Workers Alliance as well as being an early care and education provider! Stephanie has led child care providers across the state to organize us to improve our working conditions to result in a big benefit for children, families, and communities.
