



## Docs For Tots Washington State

February 2007

**Dear Washington State Doctors,**

The legislative session is well underway, and we are excited about numerous opportunities for doctors to get involved with the legislature and the media on behalf of young children! We are also pleased to share some of the major findings from our recent poll of Washington pediatricians—it is clear that children's doctors are concerned and looking to get more involved in advocacy. Docs For Tots is here to help support your efforts, and to find easy, but important, ways for doctors to make a difference. Please let us know of your interests, and how we can help you. **We hope you will consider 10 ways for you to get involved in advocacy for young children today!**

- Dr. Jill Sells, Director, Docs For Tots Washington State

### 10 Ways to Advocate for Young Children in Washington State

1. **Docs For Tots Network.** Watch your email and <http://www.docsfortots.org/DFTWA.asp> for quick updates and opportunities to make a difference.
2. **"The Status of Young Children in Washington State: What Pediatricians Think."** [Read this](#) one-page highlight from Docs For Tots Washington State's poll of 229 pediatricians.
3. **"Advocacy for Early Learning: How Pediatricians Can Collaborate with Public and Private Partners."** Listen to our statewide audio conference from Tuesday, February 13, 2007. [Click here](#) to listen.
4. **Legislator relationships.** Let your legislators know you care about young children and families. Download the DFT WA [Prescription for Early Learning](#), and fax it to your Representatives and Senator today. See [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov) for their contact information.
5. **Doctor letters to legislators.** Quality child care, preschool, home visiting, mental health, insurance and medical homes...are just some of the topics facing legislators this session. DFT has created a letter that addresses many of these issues, and many doctors have already signed on! To review the letter and add your name, click [here!](#)
6. **Children's Alliance Action Network.** [Join this](#) for early learning, health and other policy updates you choose; and to easily contact your legislators throughout the session (put "MD" after your last name when you register).
7. **Have a Heart for Kids Day February 19<sup>th</sup>.** Click [here](#) to learn more and to join Dr. Sells and other docs for this annual Children's Alliance advocacy day in Olympia.
8. **Legislative Action Team.** There were three requests for doctors to testify in just one week! DFT makes it easy and fun. If you're interested in going to Olympia this legislative session to educate legislators about issues impacting young children, please [let us know!](#)
9. **Media Response Team.** We need your help to make sure that the benefits of supporting young children and families are highlighted in Washington newspapers. Docs For Tots will look for opportunities for opinion-editorials and letters to the editor in your local newspapers. We can draft letters and contact you with opportunities to edit, personalize, sign and submit them. We will provide you with all the information you need to [rapidly](#) email a letter to your local newspaper. Watch for emails, and if you're interested, [let us know!](#)
10. **Use Docs For Tots to help you!** [Contact us](#) with your areas of interest, and we will provide tools, training, and connections to help support your advocacy efforts.

For the latest news, information, and opportunities, visit Docs For Tots Washington State online:  
[www.DocsForTots.org/DFTWA.asp](http://www.DocsForTots.org/DFTWA.asp)