



*A Nationwide Network of Doctors  
Advocating for Young Children*

## **MISSION**

The mission of Docs For Tots is to develop, support, and grow a nationwide network of doctors who respond to the requests of child advocacy organizations and others in promoting policies and practices that will improve the health and development of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

## **VISION**

Docs For Tots has a two-part vision: the pursuit of social justice in health and development for young children and changing the nature of professionalism for children's doctors through increasing their civic engagement beyond clinical practice walls.

We envision a country where no young child lives in poverty, no young child suffers from disparities in health and development outcomes due to race, ethnicity or socio-economic status, all young children have access to quality early care and education, and children's doctors are actively engaged in advocacy.

## **WHY FOCUS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD?**

We believe that the earliest years present unparalleled opportunity to make an impact on the health and well-being of children and their future growth and development. The brain development and incredible growth that occurs during early childhood makes it a critical moment in which to implement programs and supports with enduring benefit to children, families and society as a whole.

## **WHY DOCTORS?**

Polling studies reveal and our experience confirms that doctors are particularly effective and trusted messengers around early childhood issues. Their messages are received with great respect and are effective in promoting policy and practices that support our youngest children and their families.

Additionally, children's doctors and the health system have unique access to reach our nation's youngest children and their families. Through collaboration we can ensure that families are supported in a proactive manner.

## **ISSUE AREAS:**

Quality Childcare ▪ Early Learning  
Literacy ▪ Pre-K and Early Education  
Poverty ▪ Foster Care  
Social and Emotional Development  
Maternal Mental Health ▪ Parent Education  
Medical Education ▪ Family Support  
Access to Care ▪ Health Disparities



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## **WHAT WE DO**

- Bring physician messengers and messages to the policy arena
- Educate the media
- Promote the clinical venue as a unique access point of early childhood
- Bridge the early childhood and health communities
- Collaborate with advocacy and early childhood groups
- Act as an advocacy hammer for the early childhood arena
- Frame social justice issues from a health perspective
- Practice transformation and physician education
- Respond to requests of advocacy groups
- Grow and support a nationwide network

### **\*\*\* ANNOUNCEMENT \*\*\***

In partnership with Voices For America's Children, we are embarking on an initiative that will include a needs assessment and an exploration of best practices in collaborations between the health and broader early childhood communities in the building of systems that support the holistic needs of young children and their families. In order to ensure enhanced collaboration, we will:

- Provide specific materials (presentations, talking points, etc.)
- Offer individualized technical assistance
- Share opportunities for collaboration
- Circulate e-advocacy messages to support your campaign
- Work with your staff to develop specific projects

Please contact us if you'd like to participate in or learn more about this initiative.

## **DOCS FOR TOTS**

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