



*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?

At Docs For Tots, 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

HOW WE CAN WORK WITH YOUR ORGANIZATION

Docs For Tots works with child advocacy organizations looking for doctor involvement in promoting policies and practices that support the well-being of infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Docs For Tots can assist both the doctor and organization by:

- Providing specific materials (PowerPoint presentations, talking points, etc.)
- Offering individualized technical assistance
- Sharing opportunities for collaboration
- Circulating e-advocacy messages to support your campaign
- Working with your staff to develop specific projects

CONTACT INFORMATION

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