

# Early Childhood Council of Kern

Planning for quality early care and education.

## We Thought You'd Like To Know!



### What is the Council?

The Early Childhood Council of Kern (Council) is a 30-member, appointed advisory board working together to increase and enhance the quality of early childhood programs in Kern County. It is comprised of parents, early childhood professionals, employers, educators, public agencies, advocates—all with a common interest—increasing the availability of high quality early childhood services for young children ages birth to 12 years of age.

### What does the Council do?

- ✓ Conducts child care needs assessments which are then used to determine local priorities and for the development of strategic plans.
- ✓ Provides information to the community regarding the importance of high quality early learning experiences for all young children.
- ✓ Distributes educational stipends through the Early Care and Education Retention Project.
- ✓ Coordinates trainings for the early childhood field
- ✓ Works with the County and its 11 incorporated cities to bring more high quality early childhood services to local communities.
- ✓ Collaborates with groups such as the business and faith based communities to address local early childhood needs.
- ✓ Advocates for children and the early childhood profession.
- ✓ Participates with Community Service Projects.

### Why be involved?

- ✓ High quality early childhood programs are critical to a child's school and life success.
- ✓ We need input from individuals across all communities in order to make fully informed decisions.
- ✓ We need you to help us shape the future of Kern County's children.

### How you can become involved?

- ✓ Participate with Council meetings—you don't have to be a member to attend and participate!
- ✓ Have your name added to the Council's electronic distribution list by contacting the Council office—you'll receive great information on events and resources.
- ✓ **Visit the Council's web site to learn more!**
- ✓ After attending a Council meeting, individuals may seek appointment if they choose to.

### Council meetings

The Council meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Bakersfield. Check the web site for location and agenda details. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and participate with all meetings.



#### Contact Us:

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