



by Marie Treichel, Child Care Aware® Region Three

Children rely on us to be their voices. They need us to communicate to policy makers, business leaders, and community members about what helps them be prepared for kindergarten, what supports their families might need, and what funding must be in place.

Creative ways to stay involved and connect within your community:

- **Join a local provider support group** – if one doesn't exist in your community, then you can be the first to start one. Local provider groups can reach out into the community by providing information tables at community fairs or by volunteering for a day at a local food kitchen. Some local groups also coordinate monthly trainings and encourage leadership development.
- **Participate in state level organizations** - such as the Child Care Providers Coalition of Kansas (CCPC) and Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children (KAEYC).
- **Stay informed on child advocacy matters** - coordinate your voice with others for maximum impact with legislators. Kansas Action for Children (KAC) is a vehicle by which early educators can advocate.