

Gov. Newsom's Budget Proposal an Important Down-Payment to Invest in California's Youngest Children

Scott Moore, CEO of [Kidango](#), a Bay Area early learning nonprofit committed to setting every child on a path to thrive in kindergarten and in life, released the following statement in response to Governor Gavin Newsom's 2019-20 budget proposal released today:

"A cornerstone of Gov. Newsom's campaign was to prioritize early childhood and I'm excited that his budget proposal includes a significant new investment in our youngest children. The Governor's budget proposal is a critical down-payment to invest in building a strong foundation for children during the first five years of life.

The Governor's budget proposes important first steps to achieve his vision of providing children in California with a healthy start by building a high-quality child care system, expanding access to preschool and full-day kindergarten to all children, reducing child poverty and investing in early childhood health and wellness.

I'm pleased to see the Governor's proposed investments in facilities and educator training to support a high-quality ECE system, and commitment to developing a long-term road map for universal preschool and high-quality child care.

We also know that ongoing investments to expand access to high-quality preschool and child care for low-income families will be necessary. Too many low-income families lack access to high-quality child care: only about [one in ten](#) low-income infants and toddlers attend a licensed ECE program.

An equally important investment we need to make is in the teachers, caregivers and early educators who play such a crucial role in the learning and development of our children. It's time we recognized their skills and hard work with commensurate pay and support to obtain higher qualifications to make early childhood education a more viable career path.

I'm glad to see the Governor's recognition of the importance of a child's early years imbue his budget proposal, including funding for developmental and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) screenings, evidence-based home visiting for young children and families, the Black Infant Health Program, and child savings accounts. The Governor also proposes providing six months of paid parental leave and providing an expanded Working Families Tax Credit to low-income families, with an extra income boost for families with

young children that will be particularly impactful during those critical early years of a child's development.

To truly support our youngest children and set them up for success in school and in life, we must build a high-quality, evidence-based, integrated system of programs and services that supports children and families from birth through to kindergarten. We're excited to work with Gov. Newsom, his Administration and our early childhood partners over the coming months to build a better California for young children and their families."

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