

Membership Benefits

All section members receive the following benefits:

- Participation in annual section research and business meetings at no additional charge
- Electronic newsletter: *Early Education and Child Care in Action*
- Networking opportunities through participation in electronic mailing lists, section Work Groups, and section meetings; and member-to-member contact at chapter, district, or national meetings
- Resources to implement the concepts and recommendations in the AAP policy statement *Quality Early Education and Child Care: From Birth to Kindergarten*
- Access to staff who can help answer questions and provide information on AAP state and national activities, contacts, and resources
- Opportunities to participate in educational program development, consultation, and provision of technical assistance
- For affiliate members who are not otherwise members of the AAP, membership in the section allows them a subscription to *AAP News* and a discount on all AAP publications.

How to Join

Membership is open to Fellows of the AAP in good standing with an interest in early education and child care. Members of the section may vote on issues related to section business and be elected to serve as section executive committee members.

Applications for section membership can be requested from the AAP Division of Member Services at 800/433-9016, ext 5897. Interested AAP members can also apply online:

1. Go to www.aap.org/moc and log in
2. Under the heading "Member Community", click "Join a Section or Council"
3. Choose the section(s) and/or council(s) you are interested in, answer a few questions and click "Submit".

Affiliate Membership:

The section also accepts affiliate members who are interested in the study or practice of early education and child care and who are interested in contributing toward the objectives of the section. For specific qualifications and the affiliate member application, visit www.healthychildcare.org/SOEECC.html.

For more information about the section or to ask a question regarding early education and child care, email childcare@aap.org.

Visit our Web site!



To access the Web site, go to www.healthychildcare.org

SECTION ON EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Join Now!



Healthy Child Care America
www.healthychildcare.org



Section on Early Education and Child Care

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is an organization of more than 60,000 pediatric medical, surgical, and multidisciplinary sub-specialists committed to the attainment of optimal, physical, mental and social health for all children, adolescents, and young adults.

More than half of the AAP's members belong to one or more sections. Sections develop ideas and generate programs that improve the care of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. Sections were developed within the AAP for members who are interested and/or trained in specific areas of pediatrics. Although their primary goal is education, sections are also involved in policy development, public education, and advocacy for children. As a section member you will have the opportunity to share ideas with and learn from colleagues who share your specific interests and/or subspecialty background.

In 2008, the Academy established the Section on Early Education and Child Care as a permanent section to provide a forum for pediatricians and others interested in promoting the optimal development, health, and safety of children in child care.

Section Objectives

The objectives of the AAP Section on Early Education and Child Care are the following:

- Sustain a network of pediatric child care experts and health professionals to promote health/safety within child care programs and engage parents in discussions about quality care and their child care options.
- Increase the use of health and safety policies and practices in child care programs.
- Enable child care professionals to help families access medical homes and community resources.
- Maximize opportunities for health promotion in early childhood and ensure that children in child care enter school healthy and ready to learn.

Section Accomplishments

The Section Web site:

www.healthychildcare.org – This Web site provides resources on early childhood education and the health and safety of children in child care with customized sections for health professionals, child care providers, and families.

Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards, Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs, 3rd Edition – This comprehensive resource manual contains national health and safety recommendations and guidelines for children in family- and center-based child care programs.

AAP Chapter Child Care Contacts – These pediatricians have been approved to serve as an AAP point person for child care health and safety and have agreed to partner with others to mobilize relevant efforts in their state.

Child Care, Health, and Early Education and Research (CHEER) Consortium – This group of health professionals and researchers facilitates and encourages other health professionals, caregivers, and researchers to collaborate on research projects and utilize results to improve the quality of care for children in early education and child care settings across the country.

Why Get Involved?

A majority of young children are enrolled in out-of-home child care programs. High-quality early education and child care improves their development, health, and ability to learn. Partnerships with community colleagues can ensure that all young children have access to quality child care within a nurturing environment and have a medical home. By working as a team, community partners can maximize resources, develop comprehensive services, and most importantly nurture and protect children so they enter school healthy and ready to learn!

Pediatricians can be involved in child care on 3 levels by:

- Providing guidance to families on child care issues
- Providing health consultation to child care programs
- Advocating for quality child care