



Early Learning – First 100 Days Recommendations

- Create a **federal-state innovation grant program** to encourage states to expand high-quality early childhood slots serving children birth to age 5. A minimum of 40 percent should be set aside for infants and toddlers, and 20 percent for quality and infrastructure. Provide draft authorizing legislation that incorporates national quality standards and a \$2 billion funding proposal as part of the President's FY10 budget request.
- Propose \$2 billion in **new funding for Head Start and Early Head Start** as part of the President's FY10 budget request, allowing more than 100,000 additional at-risk children to benefit from early intervention and education.
- Establish a **Presidential Commission on Early Learning** to outline and oversee the President's vision for a comprehensive early learning system. The Council should be empowered to move this vision forward, and include designees from the federal agencies whose programs impact the ability of young children to learn, including (but not limited to) the Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, Agriculture, and Housing. Council membership should also include representation of state and local government officials, program providers, and key partners.
- Create an **Inter-agency Council** co-chaired by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Education. The Council will coordinate existing federal early education initiatives and implement recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Early Learning in a way that ensures and enhances quality, cost-effectiveness and accountability.
- Establish and appoint an **Office for Early Learning** in the U.S. Department of Education and **invest in building the Department's early learning capacity**, particularly to support state early childhood education efforts.



- Propose new **regulations that permit, guide and encourage the conversion of Head Start spaces to Early Head Start slots** serving infants and toddlers from birth to age three, when local assessments indicate that the greatest community need is for high quality care for very young children.