



## Our Mission

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To make Louisiana a state in which all children can thrive, by ensuring that the basic needs of children and families are met; that our children are nurtured and well taught, beginning in the early years and continuing through adolescence; that they are protected from harm; and by acting in ways that combat racism and other forms of oppression.

## Our Strategies

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Agenda for Children works to improve child well-being in Louisiana through three key strategies:

- **informing public discussions on children** by monitoring the well-being of children at the state and parish levels through our KIDS COUNT project
- **advocating for better policies and programs** to serve Louisiana's children throughout the legislative and regulatory processes
- **improving the quality of early childhood education** through "on-the-ground" work in the early education sector in Southeast Louisiana through our Child Care Resources programs

## Our Programs

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**Child Care Resources** has served as the child care resource and referral agency for 16 parishes in Southeast Louisiana since 1989 and works to improve the quality of early education through three programs:

- **Resource and Referral:** The "R & R" program connects parents and caregivers to child care that meets their specific needs. It also supports child care providers by hosting monthly Directors' Network meetings and open houses.
- **Child Care Technical Assistance:** The "TA" program provides on-site technical assistance to family child care providers and Class A child care centers. Through the TA process, our experienced advisors work with child care providers to improve program quality and assist centers in progressing through Quality Start, Louisiana's quality rating system for child care.
- **Positive Steps Training Program:** Positive Steps provides workshops to child care providers on a wide range of subjects, including developmentally appropriate practices, basic health and safety, and disaster preparedness. Positive Steps also offers a year-long series of trainings to prepare early education teachers for obtaining their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.

**Bridge to Quality** works intensively with targeted child care centers in New Orleans to make sustainable improvements in the programs' quality of care. Each center receives intensive on-site coaching, specialized trainings, business coaching, and equipment and materials to improve their quality. In 2012, the Bridge to Quality program will expand to serve the Northshore region.

**Louisiana KIDS COUNT**, a project of Agenda for Children since 1991, provides policymakers and local leaders with accurate, up-to-date information about the well-being of children in Louisiana. Louisiana KIDS COUNT produces the annual *Data Book on Louisiana's Children*, which presents parish-by-parish profiles of children's educational, social, emotional, and economic well-being. KIDS COUNT data is also publicly available through the online KIDS COUNT Data Center (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/la>).