



Children's Sabbaths Action, Invitation, and Embodiment

**Children 0-3 and Child Bearing & Child Homing Humans
Love Note to Child Bearing & Child Homing Humans**

Note: This message can be read during worship services and shared via social media and print/digital materials.

Dear Community and Advocates,

We honor and celebrate you.

You are the nurturing hands and loving hearts that shape the future. Your commitment and dedication in being a guiding light for our children through their first steps are invaluable. In the tender moments of joy and the challenging times of doubt, know that you are seen, worthy, and supported by this community.

May you find strength in our collective commitment to uplift and advocate for the well-being of all children and families.

With deep gratitude and unwavering support,

Your CDF Family



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People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Maya Angelou



Curating a Listening Sessions

*Centering the needs of
children and families from
their perspective.*

Listening sessions are a powerful way to truly understand the experiences and needs of children and their families. By creating a space where they can share their stories, joys, and challenges, we can more effectively advocate for policies and practices that support them. Here are some steps to curate a meaningful listening session:

- **Set the Intentions:** Clearly articulate the purpose of the listening session. Is it to gather stories, understand specific needs, or identify gaps in services?
- **Create a Welcoming Environment:** Ensure the space is comfortable and child-friendly. Provide activities for children to engage in while parents and caregivers speak.
- **Facilitate with Care:** Choose facilitators who are empathetic listeners and skilled in creating safe spaces for vulnerable populations.
- **Ensure Diversity:** Make a conscious effort to include voices from diverse backgrounds and experiences.
- **Document and Reflect:** Record the sessions (with consent) and take detailed notes. Reflect on the key themes and insights that emerge.

Questions to Ask Children

- Who is God?
- What makes you laugh?
- What feels hard at school?
- If you could be the leader of everything, what would you do?
- What does joy taste like?
- What's your favorite book or character?

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It is our duty to fight for our freedom.
It is our duty to win. We must love each
other and support each other. We have
nothing to lose but our chains

Assata Shakur



Sociopolitical/Advocacy Education and Organizational Resources

Equipping communities with the knowledge and tools for advocacy is crucial. The following resources provide valuable information and support for those working to create a better world for our children:

- [Start Early](#): Advocates for early childhood education and development, providing research, policy recommendations, and resources for families and educators.
- [Congress has failed our youngest generation and their families](#): A critical analysis of how legislative actions impact early childhood care and education.
- [Start Early celebrates the inclusion of critical early childhood investments in the 117th Congress' omnibus bill](#): An overview of the significant strides made in early childhood funding and what it means for families.
- [Kindergarten Readiness](#): Insights into preparing children for kindergarten, including key measures and strategies.
- [Momentum Building \(Pritzker Children's Initiative\)](#): Focuses on initiatives that drive early childhood development and support for families.

These resources offer a starting point for understanding the landscape of early childhood advocacy and education. By engaging with these materials, caregivers and advocates can better navigate the sociopolitical environment and push for the necessary changes to support our children and youth.