



A Community of Support for the Social &
Emotional Health of Children Zero – Five

June 10, 2014

Hon. Daniel Clodfelter
Office of the Mayor
600 East Fourth Street, 15th Floor
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dear Mayor Clodfelter:

We are writing on behalf of ZFive, a collaboration of volunteer professionals in Mecklenburg County dedicated to improving the social and emotional development of children birth to 5 and their families. We are asking for your support on a resolution. During the June meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, participants will vote on a resolution to support a national commitment to building an Early Learning Nation. This is a movement committed to engaging every community and family in daily brain-building moments with their children. We have attached a copy of the Resolution and the names of mayors who have signed on thus far. The resolution can also be found at

<http://murray.seattle.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/2014-Murray-Early-Childhood-Reso.pdf>

Attention to young children's needs is important since the basic architecture of the brain is developed by the age of 5. Based on years of data, there is an emerging consensus among educators, mental health providers, pediatricians, and economists that investments in early childhood development yield significant payoff for children and society at large. We are proud that Charlotte already has a history of valuing our young children. As a community, Charlotte understands that everyone benefits when we ensure that each child has the opportunity to realize his or her potential.

We hope that you will add your name to the resolution by emailing Mayor Ed Murray of Seattle, in care of Shauna Larsen at Shauna.larsen@seattle.gov

If we can assist you or the Council with this proclamation or any other issue related to the development of young children please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We would appreciate notification of your decision to support this. Thank you for your attention and for your service to the citizens of Charlotte.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Eberhardt, MSW
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant
Thompson Child & Family Focus
Co-Coordinator, ZFive



Lisa Littlejohn, MBA, MAA, NCC, LPCA
Education Specialist – Behavioral Health, Public Health & Allied Health Education
Charlotte AHEC
Co-Coordinator, ZFive



Ariana Shahinfar, Ph.D.
Department of Psychology
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Co-Coordinator, ZFive