



Monica R. Martinez

Suffolk County Legislator, 9th District
Courthouse Corporate Center
320 Carleton Avenue, Suite 4300
Central Islip, NY 11722
(P) 631.853.3700 (F) 631.853.3568

CONTACT: lisa.pinkard@suffolkcountyny.gov
luis.montes-brito@suffolkcountyny.gov
vanessa.zepeda@suffolkcountyny.gov

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Legislator Martinez and the Welfare to Work Commission to Release Reports Finding Quality Child Care and Early Learning Critically Important but Woefully Underfunded

WHAT: Suffolk County Legislator Monica R. Martinez and the Welfare to Work Commission of the Suffolk County Legislature will hold a press conference on **Monday, June 23rd, 2014 at 10AM in the lobby of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building in Hauppauge** to release the most comprehensive report written on child care and early learning in Suffolk County,

Who's Minding the Kids? Meeting Challenges and Creating Opportunities for Quality Child Care and Early Learning in Suffolk County. The report draws on hearings, focus groups and a parent survey conducted by the Commission, November 2013 to January, 2014.

WHO: The report's central finding, that the proven benefits of quality child care and early learning have not generated sufficient resources to fund these programs, will be explained by:

- Hon. Monica Martinez, Chair of the Legislature's Human Services Committee
- Richard Koubek, PhD, Chair of the Welfare to Work Commission
- Kathy Liguori, Vice Chair of the Commission and Chair of its Child Care Committee
- Dennis Nowak, Division Administrator, Suffolk DSS, Family & Children's Services/Adult Protective Services
- Janet Walerstein, Executive Director, Child Care Council of Suffolk
- Dana Friedman, EdD, President, Early Years Institute
- Nick LaMorte, President, CSEA representing home care providers
- Keesha Bailey, a parent who lost her child care subsidy
- David Welch, Esq., a parent who understands the struggle finding quality child care
- Children from HabiTots Child Care Center singing their graduation song

WHY: With two-income families now the norm in our high-cost region, and research data overwhelmingly positive about the benefits of quality child care and early learning experiences for children from birth through age 4, the national conversation around the importance of these programs has not generated the resources to support them. This study assesses the state of child care and early learning in Suffolk and provides reasonable responses for Suffolk County to improve and expand access to quality programs.

For information contact:

Suffolk County Legislator Monica R. Martinez,
Chair - Human Services Committee, 631-853-3700

Richard Koubek, PhD,

Chair-Welfare to Work Commission of the Suffolk County Legislature, 631-499-6725

Kathy Liguori, Vice Chair and Child Care Committee Chair- Welfare to Work Commission of the Suffolk County Legislature, 631-793-4008