



## Missouri Early Childhood Policy Symposium for Legislators and Legislative Staff

**Thursday, Jan. 14, 2021**

**Truman Building, Room 490/492 • Jefferson City, MO**

Join [in person](#) (masks are strongly encouraged) or through [WebEx](#)

Time	Session	Presenter/Panelist
11:30 a.m.-Noon	<b>Welcome, Introduction and Overview</b>	<b>Governor Michael L. Parson</b>
Noon-12:45 p.m.	<p><b>Early Brain Science and Brain Architecture</b> More than 1 million new neural connections are formed every second in the first few years of a child’s life. This session explores the latest research on early brain development and how everyday experiences support children’s learning and school readiness.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Representative Brenda Shields</p>	<b>Sarah Lytle</b> , Director of Outreach and Education, Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences, University of Washington
12:45-1:30 p.m.	<p><b>The Economic and Business Case for Investing in Early Childhood</b> Research shows that high-quality early childhood education produces a significant return on investment. Hear from rural and urban Missouri business leaders about the importance of the early childhood system for the workforce of today and tomorrow.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Representative Louis Riggs</p>	<p><b>Carolyn Chrisman</b>, Executive Director, Kirksville Regional Economic Development Inc., Missouri Rural Enterprise and Innovation Center, and Director, Kirksville Small Business Development Center</p> <p><b>Tyler Nottberg</b>, Chairman &amp; CEO, U.S. Engineering Company Holdings</p> <p><b>Linda Rallo</b>, Vice President, Aligned</p>
1:30-2:30 p.m.	<p><b>Investing in our Youngest Missourians</b> From child care to prekindergarten to mental health services, Missouri is investing in its youngest learners. In this session, the state’s early childhood experts and program administrators share how state and federal dollars are used to improve outcomes for the youngest Missourians.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Craig Stevenson, Kids Win Missouri</p>	<p><b>Kelly Dudley</b>, Early Childhood Wellness Expert, Department of Mental Health</p> <p><b>Jeriane Jaegers-Brenneke</b>, Child Care Subsidy Administrator, Department of Social Services</p> <p><b>Nancy Scherer</b>, Section Administrator, Section of Child Care Regulation, Department of Health &amp; Senior Services</p> <p><b>Pam Thomas</b>, Chief of Early Learning, Department of Elementary &amp; Secondary Education</p> <p><b>Emily Van Schenk Hof</b>, Executive Director, Children’s Trust Fund</p>

### Legislative Co-Host Committee

Representative Louis Riggs  
Representative Brenda Shields  
Representative Peter Merideth

Senator Karla Eslinger  
Senator Lauren Arthur  
Senator Brian Williams