Letter to the Editor/Op-Ed Template

Instructions:
- Identify newspapers in your area that accept letters to the editor
- Gather submission requirements (this may include a word count limit, requirement to include your name, phone number and other information, as well as email address or web page to submit with the letter)
- Consider the text below a guide but please edit it so it reflects your voice and views
- Add your brief story about why you care about this issue (Note: Remember to check the word count when you’re done so you stay within any limits)
- Submit the letter to the editor as directed by the newspaper
- Answer any questions that may come from the newspaper confirming your identity

Letter to the editor text:

_The Early Years Matter. Get Involved in Children’s Learning and Development!_

The early years of a child’s life are critically important for all areas of learning and development. In fact, more than 1 million new neural connections are formed every second during the first few years of life. These connections are the foundation upon which all later learning, behavior, and health depend.

Early experiences and relationships shape how a child’s brain gets built. Creating a strong foundation - with secure and loving relationships and positive experiences -- leads to greater health, learning and well-being later on.

(Insert up to 50 words, personal anecdote illustrating why you care about early childhood development.)

We all have a role to play in preparing Colorado’s kids for a healthy and successful future. No matter how we interact with young children -- whether we’re first-time parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors or early childhood professionals -- we all can play a role in giving kids a strong start in life.

That is why Colorado has developed the Early Learning and Development Guidelines, which describe a child’s learning and development from birth to 8 years old and provide practical tips and fun ideas that anyone can use to support young children’s healthy development. The Guidelines can be adapted to children with different abilities, cultures and languages and are designed for both parents to use at home and for child care providers to use in their program.

By providing these resources to parents, grandparents, families and other caregivers, we can ensure that we’re all working together to help children learn and thrive.

To learn more, visit EarlyLearningCO.org.