



# THE CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN *Current*

Free!

Weekly Reviews of Children's News

[iamforkids.org](http://iamforkids.org)

Welcome to the **Children's Campaign Current**,  
a weekly review of top news stories about children's issues across the state.

To learn more about the work of the Children's Campaign, please visit our [website](#).

## Promise 1 - Children's Health

**[Florida pushing new fees for most Medicaid recipients](#)** (*St Augustine Record*) Summary: Florida wants to be the first state in the nation to charge most of its medicaid recipients a monthly premium as well as \$100 for using the ER for routine care....

**[Infant deaths drop locally, but changes may threaten gains](#)** (*Daytona Beach News Journal*) ...oalition of Flagler and Volusia Counties partnered with local midwives to provide greater access to prenatal care, thought to be a key factor in decreasing infant death. Health officials say it's too ...

## Promise 2 - Child Protection

**[Foster-care system not broken, but new plan will make it better](#)** (*Palm Beach Post*) ...nt of Children and Families, which contracts with Our Kids and 19 other private agencies to provide foster care, said the DCF will adopt provisions of the plan that apply statewide.The plan calls for ...

**[Florida child welfare agency DCF cuts nearly 500 jobs](#)** (*Naples Daily News*) ...DCF has about 13,000 employees and spends about \$3 billion a year to care for about 19,000 kids in foster care. Nearly a decade ago the agency privatized the bulk of its foster care program, includin...

## Promise 3 - Early Learning

**[Educators: Funding cuts will hurt Florida's voluntary pre-K programs](#)** (*Florida Times Union*) By Mary Kelli Palka Early learning advocates worry that Florida budget cuts next year will continue to hinder efforts to help better prepare children for school. The budget reductions for voluntary pre-kindergarten programs and child-care subsidies ...

**[Update: Centers closing leaves parents, staff scrambling](#)** (*Tallahassee Democrat*) Immanuel Baptist Church child care Center, a long-standing Tallahassee preschool, is closing its doors July 1, leaving about 25 staff members looking for new jobs and the parents of about 150 children...

## Promise 4 - After School

**[Department gears up for summertime fun](#)** (*Southwest Florida's News-Press*) ...!? Austen Youth Center, Eagle Skate Park and Youth Services Division offer safe, fun and affordable child care and activities for youth ages 3-18. For more

information, stop by the Youth Center at 315...

[Boys Town of Central Florida in the Spotlight](#) (*West Orlando News*) ...A single mother at 18, Shatilla used help from the programs provided to her to learn social skills, Independent Living skills, understand how to seek community resources and she even participated in p...

### Promise 5 - Juvenile Justice

[Dosed in juvie jail: Drug firms pay state-hired doctors](#) (*Palm Beach Post*) ...e Mhatre, for example. In the run-up to his working for the department, he billed Medicaid for more Mental Health drugs than other doctors did. In 21 months, Mhatre wrote at least 24,771 prescriptions...

[Griego: Pre-emptive acts of compassion aim to keep kids out of gangs](#) (*Denver Post*) ...t with friends and family immediately, hoping to talk them out of retaliatory violence. Doctors and Mental Health workers also have teamed with five schools in southwest and northeast Denver to help s...

### All Promises & Education

[District looking at four-day school week](#) (*Port St. Joe Star*)... as gas and diesel prices continue to rise, and building wear and tear. The disadvantages start with child care with the schools open four instead of five days during the week. "That is the number..."

[Charter school movement exploding in Florida](#) (*Miami Herald*) Mornings at the Charter School of Excellence are an all-out attack on reading. At 9 a.m. sharp, the children divide into small groups, spread out across the Fort Lauderdale campus and spend 90 minutes...

[America's Schools Struggle to Recover Amid Years of Cuts](#) (*Lakeland Ledger*) ...r the next school year. Both the House and Senate plans would significantly cut funding for full-day pre-kindergarten, teacher incentive pay, college financial aid, arts and numerous other education pr...

### Legislative Connection

[Parent Grading Bill to Be Refiled](#) (*Lakeland Ledger*) Florida Rep. Kelli Stargel's parental responsibility bill will come back to the Legislature in the 2012 session of the Legislature and this time with the intention of passing it. Stargel told some 200...

[\\$4.6 billion in federal stimulus money stays unspent in Florida](#) (*Orlando Sentinel*) ... tax cuts in the 2009 tax year and another that gave aid to states for entitlement programs such as Medicaid. But more than a third of the money, \$264 billion nationally, was set aside for local pr...

### Children's Campaign News

[Florida's Fight for Maternal Health](#) (*Politiwatch*) The annual fight over maternal health in Florida has resemblances to the 1993 movie "Groundhog Day". For those few who haven't seen it at least once, Bill Murray plays an egotistic television weatherman from Pittsburg assigned against his wishes to cover the annual Groundhog Day event in Punxsutawney. Murray gets caught in a time warp and the day repeats itself time and time and time again. Maternal Health in Florida runs a similar but not humorous path.

[Dozier Closes! The Whole Story](#) (*Children's Campaign*) IN the end, the state budget crisis did what advocacy alone couldn't do for years. Close Dozier. More precisely, advocates resorted to budget manipulations when all other reason, facts, best practices, and arguments about protecting children from maltreatment and abuse fell short.

**New Media: Chalk Talk on Child Advocacy** (*Children's Campaign*) Using new media, The Children's Campaign has produced *Chalk Talk on Child Advocacy*. Chalk Talk got started, simply enough, with an email from Janet Ferris, a retired circuit court judge, encouraging the use of new media to spread the word. The email was received by Linda Alexionok, our executive director who, in turn, assembled a group of enterprising college interns. Linda's challenge to them was to use the technique of Art Boarding as the communication vehicle. The group quickly focused on two questions: How to tell the story of The Children's Campaign, and what resources are available to make this new media work for us?

