



## **Welcome New Leadership for ECD!**



On behalf of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), we are pleased to share that the Trump Administration has appointed a new Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Office of Early Childhood Development (ECD), Dr. Laurie Todd-Smith.

Dr. Todd-Smith joins ECD as a former public-school elementary and preschool teacher. She served as child care director in multiples states including New Mexico, Arizona and Mississippi. She most recently served at the America First Policy Institute as director of

the Center for Education Opportunity & the Center for the American Child where she focused on assisting states to advance evidence-based education policy reforms including the expansion of school choice, early literacy, foster care reform, online safety of children, as well as a model policy for fentanyl curriculum in public schools. During President Trump's first term, she was the director of the Women's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Labor, focusing on child care and paid family leave.

Previously, Dr. Todd-Smith served as a senior education and workforce policy advisor to Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, as well as serving on the State Early Childhood Advisory Council (SECAC) in Mississippi. In those roles, she spearheaded several legislative initiatives that significantly improved public education in the state. These reforms led to remarkable growth in reading and math achievement outcomes for Mississippi's students, earning the state the title of the "Mississippi Miracle". The state is now leading the Nation for growth in reading and math scores.

Dr. Todd-Smith holds a doctorate in education from Mississippi State University, a master's degree from Western New Mexico University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona.

Welcome Dr. Laurie Todd-Smith to ECD and ACF!

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