

Child Care Programs Need Support Now and After the COVID-19 Crisis



"Financial support is needed during this pandemic. Child care providers are essential to getting through this time. First responders need to be at ease knowing their children are safe and well taken care of. We need to hire additional staff whose sole job is to clean and disinfect the centers and toys. We need to be able to adequately compensate each staff member who is taking a risk themselves to provide care for essential staff's children." Daisy Brooks, Daisy's Good Beginnings, Tabor City

"We need support. If I am forced to close without funding, I will not be able to reopen" – Vanessa Hodges, The Learning Center, Washington

"With this virus coming on so sudden, the impact is hitting us in ways we couldn't have imagined. Trying to keep our staff at work and meeting payroll will definitely take its toll to where we may not be able to recover, and we can't wait long to get some help just to remain open. The struggle is real and we need help now." – Jerry Burchett, Kid City Children Center, Thomasville

"Our center has gone from 180 children to around 70. My staff have all worked here for 7-20 years and I am desperately trying to keep them

employed. I have worked very hard over the years to get them full benefits and good pay. It breaks my heart to see their jobs almost gone. Without help, we will have to close in a few short weeks. We are needed now for our essential working parents and will be very needed again for all of our parents. I am anxious, weary and worried trying to keep staff and children safe and my staff paid." – Carolyn Breedlove, First Baptist Welcome Learning Center, Welcome

"I'm currently open and I have spent an overwhelming amount on disinfectants, gloves, ear probes, laser thermometers, and other supplies. I have no more masks due to the shortage. Funding is needed because SAFETY is the greatest need. Please help." Kimberly McAllister, Pamper, Hugs & Luv's Learning Center, Hope Mills

"I am a single mother and I absolutely rely on child care so that I can work to provide for my son. These centers are necessary and need assistance from our local and state government. Our leaders need to pay heed, take care of our future leaders." – Mason Loudermilk, Parent, Asheville

"Child care is as important as health care. Health care workers need to know their children are cared for while they are serving us." – Sherry Standcliff, Occupational Therapist, Advance

"We are in desperate need of instant financial assistance or we will have to close our doors – which means we will not be available to continue to provide care for essential workers children. Nor will we be available to assist when the pandemic ends and the economy works to get back on its feet." – Rosaline Gordon, Steps to Hope Academy, Hendersonville

"As essential workers, we are supporting our families who are also essential workers, so that they can continue to work in the health field or maintain this economy through other critical services. Our costs have increased, access to supplies needed has been reduced, and we want to keep our teachers working or ensure their families will be taken care of through this process, if unemployed. When the pandemic is over, we want to be able to keep our doors open to those families who have been safe at home, who need care but could not afford to pay tuition to keep our doors open. We will need help to survive, as we have helped others stay safe from COVID-19." – Anna Mercer-McClean, Community School for People Under 6, Carrboro

"Our families and our staff are scared right now; they don't trust that they will be taken care of, they are worried about feeding their families, they are worried about having money to pay bills in upcoming months, they are worried that they will ultimately lose their jobs (many have already). Due to COVID-19 and our declining enrollment we had to lay off 25% of our staff. They are scared." – Donna Sand, COSKids, Matthews

"We serve over 185 families and provide employment for 30 staff members. This crisis has greatly impacted our child care family. While we miss the children running up and down our hallways, we understand the importance of health and safety. We have been readily available to meet the needs of our essential workers and now we need support from our county, state and nation. Our attendance over the month has been down to 15% of enrollment, which means parents are staying at home, staying safe and not paying for child care or teacher's salaries." – Theresa Stephens, Church Childcare Center, Walkerton

"I hope the state has realized how important the early childhood programs are. We all desperately need your support during a time where my staff and myself are putting ourselves at risk to serve our community." – Caroline Marino, Emmanuel Lutheran School, Asheville

"There is a possibility of losing my center, which I have put heart and soul into. I had to close my doors and hope to be able to reopen when this crisis subsides. We need your help." Eric Moore, Kid's Learning Center, Durham

"Childcare workers need just as much support as other essential workers. We are putting the lives of ourselves and our family at risk to provide care so that healthcare workers and others with families may continue to support our communities!" – Shameka Jordan, Kiddie Junction, Rocky Point

"I am 48 years old, immunocompromised, and have asthma. I am putting myself at risk staying open for my parents that are essential workers. I've had a hard time finding toilet paper, cleaning supplies and certain foods I need to operate and to keep myself, my family, and these children and their families safe. I have had to pay more for supplies, on top of the loss of income from the children that aren't coming. Please consider helping us that are helping others." – Tonya Rockhold, Tonya's Tots, King

"Our programs are suffering major losses during covid19. Supplies are limited and we are losing families. We still have to pay our bills." – Cassandra Gullick, Gullick's Learning Room, Winston-Salem

"Due to COVID - 19, our attendance has been way down. I have had to cut many employee hours. Please help us during this time of difficulty. We want to continue to provide care for our children in the center." – Debra Kretschmer, Wilson's Mills Baptist Child Care, Smithfield



"This state needs to take notice of the vital work that child care providers do each and every day. They are caring for our youngest citizens. The centers that are open are providing an essential role so that their parents can go be a doctor, nurse, mail carrier, etc. These individuals need our support! Many of the small, individually owned centers are losing money due to parents pulling their kids out of their care because of working at home or they have lost their jobs because of the virus. We need to support small business owners!" – Heather Morton, Adjunct Professor, Stanly Community College, Clayton

"It's sad that it has taken a pandemic for people to realize how crucial the childcare industry is to the economy and the people of this great state! Please do what is right and support child care and others like us in the same economic trouble." Robyn Willis, The Pa-Paw Patch, Vale

"We have teachers and parents that are withdrawing their children and keeping them at home even though we have elected at this time to remain open. Thankfully we have been able to replace 4 of our 12 enrolled with essential workers looking for temporary child care. However, if more parents remove their children we will face substantial loss and might not be able to continue our career of 29 years. Please remember to look out for small businesses such as child care. It is important for quality care to be available once this crisis is over." – Debbie Powell, Home Touch Child Care, Charlotte

"Emergency funding should be made available to child care centers who remain open in this pandemic crisis. Support the frontline teachers who are working." – Ajay Goyal, Children's Castle Child Care, Jacksonville

"The workforce in our county will not be able to function without child care! Please make child care workers a priority!" – Valerie Wallace, Partnership for Children of Wayne County, Goldsboro

"My husband and I are essential employees who depend on our child care center. They operate on narrow margins, and if they have to close, we and others will lose this essential child care service. There are also limited centers with availability in our area, so if they close it would be extremely difficult to find another situation." – Megan Arrington, Parent, Carrboro

"I am afraid if I don't get help soon, I can't afford to stay open. We need the jobs and the parents need us. We should be just as important as others working during this crisis." – Annie Pettaway, Little Mark Child Care Center, Bethel

"We are really stressed about how we will continue to operate due to funding. We are open and praying that we can keep serving children during this time." – Katherine Davis, The Growing Place Child Care, Asheboro

"Child care workers provide a critical service to our community but sadly are some of the most underpaid. NC already has a shortage of child care facilities and this emergency will shutter doors that will not be able to recover. Please support these workers on the frontline." – Celia Jarrett, Partners in Learning, Salisbury



"We have had to cut back hours due to lack of kids. We've had to temporarily cut staff and it's been a struggle. We need help to stay afloat so we can help support the families that are still working during this time." – Kadie Campbell, South Rowan Academy Daycare, China Grove

"Child care centers such as ours have been impacted by lack of student attendance. None of our students are attending. We have no income to pay our bills or employees. Please do what you can to help us." – Susan Williams, Learning & Fun Preschool, Boone

"We are being asked to stay in operation at a high risk and also keep the children, their families, as well as ourselves and our own families safe during this crisis. All of us are under an extreme amount of stress trying to stay in compliance and provide a healthy safe clean environment for everyone involved. I hope you realize what a critical part we play in the community and give us your full support so we can stay in operation safely. Please help us get the essentials we need such as disinfecting supplies, toilet paper and food for the children. It is critical for us to have a dedicated supplier to be able to operate within the state's new required guidelines." – Lana Robertson, Lana's Daycare, Wake Forest

"There is nothing more vital to the rebuilding of our economy after this crisis than the child care industry! We have to keep these businesses alive, in order to keep all other businesses alive in the future!" – Jane Hatley, WNC Director, Self-Help Credit Union, Asheville

"In order for me to continue to provide services for essential workers, more funding is needed now." – Teresa Kearney, Teresa's Tree of Knowledge, Henderson

"Child care centers are struggling all over the state. The ones of us that chose to stay open are doing everything we can to help our frontline workers not to have to worry about their children and be able to focus on their patients." – Joyce Isenhour, Little Friends Child Development Center, Albemarle