



# Paying for Childcare

**Child Care** fees may seem high, but child care workers are among the lowest paid professionals in the country.

**Average cost of care**                      **\$79/week**

(Nat'l Child Care Survey, 1994)

**Child care workers average**    **\$5.08/hour**

(Nat'l Child Care Staffing Study Revisited, 1993).

**Programs to help parents in paying for child care:**



## Employer Programs and Benefits

More and more employers are helping their employees find and pay for child care by:

- \* **Flexible work schedules** and personnel policies;
- \* **Dependent care assistance plans (DCAP)**;
- \* **Offering child care referral services**;
- \* **Providing access to drop-in emergency centers**
- \* **Providing on-site (or near-site) child care.**

Check with your employer's personnel office or human resources department to see what your employer may offer. Both small and large employers may provide these benefits.

## Child Care Subsidies

There are various sources of federal and state subsidies to help parents pay part of the cost of child care. Eligibility is based on family income, reasons for needing child care, and your child's age (generally under age 13). The local Child Care

Resource and Referral agency should know whom to call if assistance is available to you. See contact information at the bottom of this page.

## Tax Credits and Refunds

By using the **Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC)**, you can reduce your income taxes and you are eligible regardless of your income level.

The **Earned Income Credit (EIC)** is also available for lower-income families and may involve a refund, even if you don't owe taxes. You must file a tax return in order to get the credit.

## Help Make Quality Child Care a Reality for All Families

Many families are not happy with their current child care and would choose another form if it were available to them.

As child care becomes a national matter of concern, you can make your voice heard.

## Some things you can do:

- \* **Talk to your employer** about instituting family-friendly workplace benefits like flexible schedules, job sharing, paid family leave, and child care assistance.

A project of The Florida Partnership for Parent Involvement

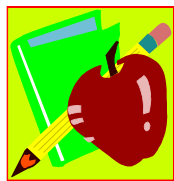
Center of Excellence ♦ Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute ♦ Florida's Children's Forum  
Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters ♦ Hillsborough County Head Start ♦ Hillsborough County Even Start



\* **Let your voice be heard! Write or visit** your mayor, governor and members of Congress. Tell them how important quality child care is to you and your family. See Tip Sheet on *Getting Your Voice Heard* for help in writing letters.

\* **In your contacts with officials,** describe your own child care crises and emphasize the need for a child-centered agenda.

\* **Get involved in organizations** working for better child care in your community. Some of these efforts are linked to school reform initiatives to meet the needs of students for before-and after-school care. Check with your Child Care Resource & Referral Office for information about local programs.



\***Participate** in your child's program or another early care and education program in your area.

This information was excerpted from the *Child Care Primer*. from the *Child Care Action Campaign*; 330 Seventh Ave., 17th Floor, New York, NY.

For more information contact:



**The Center for Parent Involvement** (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at [www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi](http://www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi). The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPIY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

Family Empowerment Series, Parent Tip Sheets, #1: Transition: Paying for Childcare

© 1999, Tampa, Florida

This is a publication of the Florida Center for Parent Involvement which was funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The opinions contained in this publication are those of the grantee and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Education. All or portions of this work may be reproduced providing the Florida Center for Parent Involvement, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida is properly credited on all reproductions.

---

Events, activities, programs and facilities of the University of South Florida are available to all without regard to race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, Vietnam or disabled veteran status as provided by law and in accordance with the University's respect for personal dignity.

**University of  
South Florida  
USF**