

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1997

Margaret M. Petruska
Senior Program Officer and Director HHS Programs
The Heinz Endowments
30 CNG Tower
625 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburg, PA 15222-3115

Dear Margaret:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nicole Rabner", followed by a horizontal flourish line.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for
Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 12, 1997

Martha Farrell Erickson, Ph.D.
Director of Children, Youth, and Family Consortium
University of Minnesota
12 McNeal Hall
1985 Buford Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Dear Ms. Erickson:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a stylized, flowing script.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for
Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 12, 1997

Deborah Lowe Vandell
NICHD Study of Early Child Care
Wisconsin Center for Education Research
University of Wisconsin School of Education
1025 West Johnson Street
Madison, WI 53706

Dear ~~Ms.~~^{Dr.} Vandell:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for
Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 12, 1997

Stacie G. Goffin
Senior Program Officer
Youth Development
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
4900 Oak
Kansas City, Missouri 64112-2776

Dear Ms. Goffin:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for
Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 12, 1997

Madeline Fried
Fried & Sher, Inc.
465 Carlisle Drive
Herndon, VA 20170

Dear Ms. Fried:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for
Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 12, 1997

Ellen Clippinger
President
National School-Age Care Alliance
4720 North Park
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Dear Ellen:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a stylized, flowing script.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for
Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 12, 1997

Anna S. Wadia
Senior Program Officer
Ms. Foundation for Women
120 Wall Street, 33rd Floor
New York, NY 10005

Dear Ms. Wadia:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for
Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 12, 1997

Charles R. Romeo
Director, Employee Benefits
Con Agra Refrigerated Foods Companies
2000 South Batavia Avenue
Geneva, IL 60134

Dear Mr. Romeo:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for
Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 12, 1997

Lynn L. White
Executive Director, NCCA
1016 Rosser Street
Conyers, GA 30207

Dear Ms. White:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a stylized, flowing script.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for
Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 12, 1997

Claudia E. Wayne
National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force
733 15th Street, NW, Suite 1037
Washington, DC 20005-2112

Dear Ms. Wayne:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for
Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 12, 1997

Dee Topol
President
The Travelers Foundation
388 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10013

Dear Ms. Topol:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for
Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1997

Roger H. Brown
Chief Executive Officer
Bright Horizons Children's Centers
One Kendall Square, Building 200
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for
Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 12, 1997

Rosemary Jordano
President
Children First Inc.
One International Place
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Ms. Jordano:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for
Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1997

Carey Fleming
Director of Corporate Alliances
Work Life Benefits
539 Fernwood Road
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

Dear Ms. Fleming:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for
Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 20, 1997

Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Ph.D.
Center for Young Children and Families
Columbia University
525 West 120th Street
New York, NY 10027

Dear Jeanne:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,



Jennifer Klein
Special Assistant to the
President for Domestic
Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 20, 1997

Donald J. Borut
Executive Director
National League of Cities
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Borut:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer Klein".

Jennifer Klein
Special Assistant to the
President for Domestic
Policy

Breemen -

Are you
keeping files?

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 14, 1997

Kathleen Christensen
Program Officer
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
630 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2550
New York, NY 10111-0242

Dear Kathleen:

Thank you very much for your letter and for sharing your invaluable advice on the White House Conference on Child Care. We greatly appreciate your guidance and expertise as we continue to develop the themes and the direction of the Conference.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we continue to plan the conference.

Sincerely yours,



Jennifer Klein
Special Assistant to the
President for Domestic
Policy

ALFRED P. SLOAN FOUNDATION
SUITE 2550
630 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10111-0242

KATHLEEN E. CHRISTENSEN
PROGRAM OFFICER

(212) 649-1649
FAX (212) 757-5117
CHRISTENSEN@SLOAN.ORG

August 8, 1997

Jennifer Klein
Special Assistant to the President
For Domestic Policy
2nd Floor West Wing
The White House
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Jennifer,

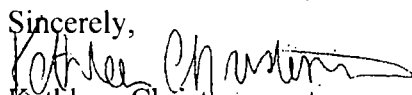
Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the recent meeting on child care. The Conference in the fall is important and I think that at least two things must be accomplished.

First, this is the opportunity for the President to take strong and powerful leadership on this issue. Quality, affordable child care could be the most important legacy he could leave this country. A profound social revolution has occurred over the last thirty years and our institutions and politicians have not yet publicly and fully recognized this. The rise of dual earner and single parents are necessitating that the majority of the children in this country are in need of quality care.

Second, children do not stop needing 'child care' at the age of 5. The majority of pre-adolescent and adolescent children in our country have no adult supervision after school. Research has shown that the lack of adult supervision has a direct correlation with lower grades.

Personally, I see this is as a leadership conference that makes a commitment to children and poses a challenge to our country. The challenge has to do with funding. Who is going to pay and how much? Any other country with high quality care has strong governmental funding, usually at the federal level.

Best wishes with the conference planning. If I can be of further help, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Christensen

DRAFT

*

DRAFT

*

DRAFT

Child Care: How Does Your State Rate?

By Betty Holcomb

with Catherine Cartwright, Shaun

Dreisbach and Anne Fritz

Child care became a new priority for nearly every one of the fifty states this year, with more initiatives than ever before.

Some were bold and breathtakingly innovative. Rhode Island, for example, began to offer health benefits to many family child care providers, in a creative effort to attract more caregivers to the field. One of the key requirements is that caregivers meet licensing standards. This approach is a practical way to meet the needs of both children and child care workers.

In Colorado, child care advocates managed to invent a new source of money for child care--a check-off on state income tax forms. When state residents check this box on their income tax form, part of their tax money is

automatically routed to a new Quality Child Care Improvement fund, which gives grants to child care programs around the state that want to expand or improve their services.

Georgia continues to enhance its impressive prekindergarten program, which is funded through the state's lottery. Last year, that state offered child care to 62,000 preschoolers--a remarkable achievement. This year, state officials set up a formal Office of School Readiness, an indication of Georgia's continuing commitment to early education.

Other states made large investments in child care, allocating millions of dollars to help families who had been on waiting lists for subsidized care. Most notably, Washington's governor Gary Locke proposed a \$100 million increase for child care, Florida's governor Lawton Chiles lobbied for \$49 million in new funds and transferred \$89 million in existing budgets to create more child care, and Michigan boosted its

investment by \$44 million. This means that tens of thousands of children will now have access to care that their parents could not otherwise afford.

Caregiver training and pay also got attention this year in the majority of the states. From Maine to Oregon, state officials launched new initiatives to see that caregivers receive more training on child development and safety. North Carolina continues to be a leader on this front, with its Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) program. Caregivers who complete this training are rewarded with higher pay from the state--which helps keep better-trained caregivers in the field. Happily, the T.E.A.C.H. program is now being replicated in five other states (Colorado, Georgia, Florida, Illinois and New York).

Most of this activity was prompted by the welfare reform package which Congress passed last year and President Clinton signed into law. While the new law is specifically aimed

at moving women off welfare to work, it contained broad new provisions for child care--\$4 billion in federal funds and new authority for the states to decide how such funds are spent. For the next two years, that means many states are actually getting more child care money than they used to. Because of this funding boost, many states have become more active--creating new programs and improving old ones, as you'll read in the pages of the report that follows.

Many child care advocates sound a cautionary note, however. The nation's supply of child care is still woefully inadequate and quality is lacking in far too many programs. As most of Working Mother's readers know from personal experience, there is not even an organized way to find licensed, high-quality child care in most communities across our nation.

In the coming years, the demand for child care will increase--and there will be growing pressure on the states to trade off quality to expand the

quantity of child care. In plain English, that means some people will be willing to sacrifice children's safety and development in the name of supplying more care. Already, there is evidence of such pressure. Wisconsin, for example, created a new class of "provisional" caregivers who do not have to meet training requirements. These caregivers will be paid half as much as those who do have training. The idea is that the state's money will go twice as far, and serve twice as many children. Connecticut has also cut some of their funds for inspections, a move that is an additional cause for concern.

While it is true that such measures may save money in the long run, you may find your own child's care compromised. It's possible, for example, that your child's center won't be as safe if it is not regularly inspected. You may see a change in the qualifications of your child's caregivers. Without mandated training, they may not be prepared to create

activities that challenge and stimulate your child to encourage her emotional and intellectual development. In some cases, you might even find college-educated caregivers at your local center replaced by girls right out of high school. These young women may have the best of intentions, but may be too immature to tolerate the demands of caring for young kids. To make sure these changes don't happen in your state, contact your governor and state legislators and let them know how important caregiver training, health and safety regulations are to you.

"Good quality care costs more money, that's the bottom line," says child care advocate Barbara Reisman, former executive director of the Child Care Action Campaign. "That's what the research shows. Good programs require a certain level of investment. Knowing that, we don't want to turn back the clock to the days when child care was just seen as 'babysitting.' We need to keep up the momentum to improve the care our children receive."

While the future holds some questions, the good news is that for this year, at least, our report reveals improvements in nearly every one of the fifty states. Our national panel of experts helped to identify the most important changes across the nation and create this updated picture of child care. This careful and thorough investigation of how each state meets its responsibility in caring for kids is simply not available anywhere else: It is a report that readers, advocates and state officials can use to compare their states with others, and work to further improve programs and services for the nation's children.

The 10 Best States (Box)

California

Colorado

Connecticut

Hawaii

Maryland

Massachusetts

Minnesota

Vermont

Washington

Wisconsin

Key To The Ratings

Number of children under six reports the total number of children under the age of six in each state. These figures were provided by Columbia University's National Center for Children in Poverty, which produced Map and Track, a state-by-state analysis of how kids are doing in areas ranging from child care to health care.

Number of accredited centers indicates how many child care centers in the state are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the nation's preeminent organization of early childhood educators. To gain accreditation, a center must be inspected and meet a wide range of standards, including teacher training, adult supervision, and a curriculum that encourages a child's development. An accredited program is especially valuable in a state with poor standards for adult supervision and caregiver

training--parents can rest easier knowing such a center meets the NAEYC standards. To help compare the states, we report how many kids under age six with working parents there are for each accredited center in the state.

Number of accredited family child care homes indicates how many family child care providers in the state meet standards set by the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), the nation's leading organization for family child care providers. Many states exempt family child care providers from all licensing requirements, including basic health and safety measures, even when they are caring for four or five children besides their own. Accredited caregivers must pass muster in measures of safety and health, be rated as respectful and responsive to children and offer appropriate activities.

QUALITY: To evaluate the programs in each state, we looked at three key factors identified by researchers as crucial measures of quality.

The number of children a single adult can care for. Kids need plenty of attention and supervision to thrive emotionally and to stay out of danger. We used the standards set by NAEYC for child care centers as our ideal for younger children: 3 to 4 infants * 4 to 6 toddlers * 7 to 10 preschoolers and recommendations from the National School-Age Care Alliance (NSACA) for school-agers: 8 to 10 children under 6 * 10 to 15 children 6 and older.

Group Size: Studies show that children do best in smaller groups, with less noise and chaos. States that meet the group limits set by NAEYC and NSACA are noted as having "Good standards." Those that set some limits are noted as having "Mediocre" to "poor" standards. States that set no limit at all have "No standards."

Caregiver Training is one of the most important indicators of quality, according to the latest research. Child care workers who are familiar with the stages of child development prove far more responsive than those who are

unaware of such information. Wheelock College, one of the nation's leading institutions of early education, provided us with a state-by-state analysis of how much education caregivers are required to have. We report the training as either "hours" or "college credits." In practical terms, three college credits (the equivalent of one college course) works out to about 45 hours of training. We also note which states require center directors to have some management training; a director with good business and employee-management skills can improve the quality of a child care center by creating a stable, upbeat environment for children, staff and parents. We also recognize the special efforts states make to encourage training, such as scholarships or other funding for training.

No state could receive the highest rating in this category without meeting NAEYC standards for adult to child ratios and group size, and requiring at least some workers in child care

centers to have some college credits in childhood development.

SAFETY: There are a number of key factors that help keep kids safe.

Adult Supervision: Limiting the number of children an adult can care for (see "Quality" section, above) not only boosts the quality of a program but also helps to limit injuries in child care. A "Good" rating means the state licensing standards meet or are very close to NAEYC standards; "Mediocre" means that the state's standards allow for only modest supervision; "Poor" means it would be hard for any caregiver to assure a child's safety if she takes in the maximum number of kids the state allows.

Size at which family child care is regulated: The number here indicates how many children a caregiver may take into a private home before she is required to be registered or licensed and therefore meet basic health and safety rules. A plus sign (+) indicates she may take in additional children, under some circumstances. She may, for

example, not have to count her own children or other children related to her, such as nieces or nephews.

Immunizations: Starting in 1995, both the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that all children attending an out-of-home program have a full battery of immunizations, including protection against hepatitis B (HepB) and meningitis (HIB). Still, only about half the states have this requirement.

(++) indicates the state requires all recommended shots prior to entry; (+) means the state requires all recommended shots within 30 days; [ND] means not all shots are required. We also report when a state allows more than 30 days for proof of vaccinations.

Playground surfaces are important because falls onto hard surfaces are the leading cause of the most severe injuries in child care. States get a plus (+) when they require a surface on outdoor play areas that helps to prevent injuries. States that don't require such surfaces received a minus ([ND]).

Handwashing: Studies show that the spread of illnesses in child care can be prevented if caregivers wash their hands before preparing food and after diaper changes, toileting and wiping children's noses. States were rated "Good" if they require hand-washing at all key times; "Fair" if they leave out nose wiping or if they don't specify exact times; and "Poor" if they don't require handwashing before preparing food or after toileting or diapering.

Healthy Child Care America: A (+) indicates that the state runs a program in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to link child care to local health care professionals. Programs vary from state to state, to meet the needs of both kids and child care providers. In some cases, the program may strive to see that all kids get their shots before enrolling in child care; in others, it may involve setting up a registry of health professionals willing to provide advice to caregivers about kids' health needs.

Inspections: This entry explains how often the states inspect local child care providers and whether caregivers have advance warning of those inspections. The best system is, of course, one in which inspectors arrive unannounced--and see how a caregiver operates when no other adults are around.

To get the highest rating in this category, a state had to have "Good" adult supervision, require that family child care providers meet health and safety standards once they care for three children, have unannounced inspections, and have rated highly on standards for immunizations, playground surfaces and hand-washing.

AVAILABILITY: In this section we note special efforts states make to create more child care. We focused on the growing number of pre-K and school-age initiatives. We also note the truly ambitious efforts, such as Smart Start in North Carolina, which aims to provide high quality care to every one of its children.

Resource & Referrals (R&Rs): Child care resource & referral agencies often play a key role in making child care available to residents. All track the supply of child care in their local communities and refer parents to openings. Some also provide counseling on how to evaluate that care. The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies has provided us with information about whether there is a statewide network of R&Rs. A plus (+) indicates the network has funding and staff; a minus ([ND]) indicates the network operates without government funding or a staff.

State investment: This figure shows the amount the state spends on child care out of every \$100 collected in state tax revenues. This information was supplied by the Children's Defense Fund.

To get the highest rating in this category, a state had to have a major initiative in place to expand its supply of child care.

COMMITMENT: Here, we look at whether state officials make child care a high

priority. We are especially interested in the actions of the governor and state lawmakers, who have the power to both make policy and set aside money to improve and expand child care.

PANEL OF EXPERTS

These nationally-recognized experts supplied us with invaluable support, information and advice and helped us choose Working Mother's 10 Best States: Gina Adams and Helen Blank, Children's Defense Fund; Sheri Azer and Gwen Morgan, Wheelock College; Ellen Galinsky, Families and Work Institute; Kay Hollestelle, The Children's Foundation; Evelyn K. Moore, National Black Child Development Institute; Barbara Reisman, Child Care Action Campaign; Michelle Seligson, School-Age Child Care Project at the Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College; Yasmina Vinci, National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies; Barbara Willer, National Association for the Education of Young Children.

We would also like to extend special thanks to the following people for helping us develop a protocol for evaluating state health and safety rules: Susan Aronson, MD, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Jane Coury,

U.S. Public Health Service, Health
Resources and Services Administration's
Maternal and Child Bureau.

DRAFT * DRAFT * DRAFT

ALABAMA

STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE

HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 373,000

Number of accredited centers: 38

**Number of accredited family child care
homes:** 15

**STAR Number of children one adult can
care for:** 6 infants * 8 toddlers * 12
preschoolers * 22 (6&7), 25 (8&9)
school-agers.

Group Size: Good standards, except for
school-age care.

Caregiver Training: Center directors:
20 hours in administration and
management of child care centers to
start, 8 hours annually. Center staff:
None to start, 4 hours annually. Family
child care providers: None to start, 4
hours every 2 years.

CROSS Adult supervision: Poor.

Size at which family child care is

regulated: 1+ children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Poor.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have unannounced inspections every two years.

FACE This state still has no broad initiatives to increase the supply of child care. **State investment:** 18 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network ([ND]).

HEART Alabama remains a state with a low commitment to child care.

As we went to press, state lawmakers were considering a proposal to improve the state's very low standards. If it passes, it will improve adult to child ratios in child care centers and boost training requirements for family child care providers.

Meanwhile, there was good news in the private sector. Seventeen companies in Lee County, Alabama, banded together to help expand the supply of child care

in their community. And the city of Birmingham collaborated with 18 employers there to build and run a new child care center.

ALASKA

STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE

HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 60,000

Number of accredited centers: 13

Number of accredited family child care homes: 13

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 5 infants * 6 toddlers * 10 preschoolers * 20 school-agers.

Group size: No standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors: 12 college credits to start, 15 hours annually. Center staff: None to start, 15 hours annually. Family child care providers: None to start, 9 hours annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Mediocre.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 5+ children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: +.

Hand-washing: Good.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have announced inspections every other year.

FACE The Alaska Children's Trust will make modest investments in child care.

State investment: \$1.70 for every \$100.

R&R: Information on network not available.

HEART A new program to encourage caregiver training is high on governor Tony Knowles' agenda.

Alaska is working to create an ambitious, state-wide education and training program for caregivers. Details aren't final, but the new initiative sounds promising. "This seems particularly noteworthy in a state such as Alaska, where the next town over is often an airplane ride away," says Claudia Shanley, formerly of the Department of Community and

Regional Affairs. "Because of this isolation and lack of access to training, it's much more difficult for caregivers to find the programs they need." Child care will also get a modest boost from the Children's Trust, a fund created by the state which will award \$250,000 in grants to many children's projects.

ARIZONA

STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE

HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 457,000

Number of accredited centers: 131

Number of accredited family child care homes: 13

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 5 infants * 8 toddlers * 13 preschoolers * 20 school-agers.

Group size: No standards.

**Caregiver training: Center directors:
90 hours to start, none annually.**

Center staff: None to start, 12 hours annually. Family child care providers: None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Poor.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 5+ children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Fair.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers have unannounced inspections once a year; family child care homes have unannounced inspections twice a year.

FACE The state's pre-K program serves 4,200 children. **State investment:** 32 c for every \$100. **R&R:** No statewide network.

HEART Arizona lawmakers repeatedly fail to fund initiatives that could improve quality and safety.

Arizona has some lively advocates who have produced some wonderful studies showing how children benefit from high-quality child care. And they've made some progress. This year, for example, they convinced reluctant

lawmakers to pass a bill that requires all school-aged programs to be licensed. Yet the legislature still refused to fund additional inspectors to oversee new child care programs. Without funds for new staff, the average inspector's job caseload jumps by a third--giving them each more than 100 programs to visit.

ARKANSAS

STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 223,000

Number of accredited centers: 34

Number of accredited family child care homes: 20

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 6 infants * 12 toddlers * 12 preschoolers * 20 school-agers.

Group Size: No standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

None to start, 10 hours annually.

Center staff: None to start, 10 hours annually. Family child care providers: None to start, 6 hours annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Poor.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 6+ children.

Immunizations: +.

Playground surfaces: Centers: +. Family child care homes: [ND].

Hand-washing: Centers: Fair. Family child care homes: Poor.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have inspections 4 times a year (at least 3 unannounced).

FACE This state continues to fund pre-K for thousands of children, but has no other broad initiatives to expand child care. **State investment:** 35 c for every \$100. **R&R:** No statewide network.

HEART This state still lags behind others on many measures, but state officials have worked hard to improve quality in the past year.

Arkansas made some encouraging progress in helping centers get accredited and getting caregivers to

seek more education. With state aid and technical assistance, the number of state-accredited centers grew tenfold in the past year and a half, from 27 to 270. (The state's accreditation standards are not quite as demanding as the NAEYC's, but this is still an initiative that boosts quality.)

Parents who use accredited centers can double the state tax credit they take for child care. The state also used \$400,000 in federal funds to award scholarships to 300 caregivers who wanted to work toward a Child Development Associate degree.

State legislators agreed to upgrade adult-to-child ratios in programs for school-aged kids, a positive step. There must now be one adult on hand for every 20 kids, instead of 25. State lawmakers also upheld quality in child care by refusing to pass a bill that would have gutted training requirements for caregivers--a smart move, since so many studies show that caregivers do a better job when they have some training.

A bill that requires all kids to have their hepatitis shots before they enter a child care program passed this year. That means kids in both centers and family child care homes will be better protected from this dangerous disease.

CALIFORNIA

THIS STATE
NOT FINAL

STAR STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 3,512,000.

Number of accredited child care centers: 491.

Number of accredited family child care homes: 189.

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 4 infants * 12 toddlers * 12 preschoolers * 14 school-agers.

Group size: No standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:
15 college credits to start, including

training in management; none annually.

Center staff: At least 6 college credits to start; 2 credits each semester or quarter until 12 credits have been completed; after that, none annually. Family child care providers: None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 2+ children.

Immunizations: ++.

Playground surfaces: Centers: +. Family child care homes: [ND].

Hand-washing: Fair.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers have unannounced inspections once a year; family child care homes have unannounced inspections every 3 years.

FACE This state continues to support a large pre-K program and to provide care to tens of thousands of children. **State investment:** 95 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network (+).

HEART California maintains its place as one of the ten best states for child care, thanks to the pace-setting

programs launched in the past. Governor Pete Wilson, however, has failed to show strong leadership on this issue.

California is turning over a lot of child-care decision-making to local planning councils, and the jury is still out on their effectiveness. The fact that Governor Wilson has not championed child care funds in the legislature could curb their success. Advocates are watching closely.

will be revised

Still, the state is providing \$20 million in new money for both preschool and school-age care this year. The governor also proposed \$10 million to help expand and improve child care facilities at state community colleges. This is not a lot out of a state budget as large as California's. Still, these are important innovations.

To help parents become more informed consumers, California passed a law requiring centers and family child care homes to post information about licensing inspections and complaints.

The state also passed a law that many consider a step backward: It

allows family child care providers to care for two more kids, without hiring additional help. This means a family child care provider can now care for up to eight kids, instead of six, without hiring additional help. The new rule also worries child care advocates because it may limit infant care in California: When caregivers take in the two extra older children, they must reduce the number of babies in their care.

COLORADO

STAR STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 314,000

Number of accredited centers: 135

Number of accredited family child care homes: 10

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 5 infants * 7 toddlers * 10 preschoolers * 15 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

College degree, or 24 semester hours of early education classes to start, plus 2 years experience; 6 hours annually.

Center staff: None to start, 6 hours

annually. Family child care providers:

None to start; 12 hours within first 3 months, then 6 hours annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Mediocre.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 2+ children.

Immunizations: ++.

Playground surfaces: Centers: +. Family child care homes: [ND].

Hand-washing: Centers: Good. Family child care homes: Poor.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed program have unannounced inspections ranging from every month to every three years.

FACE Colorado has launched several new initiatives to expand child care, especially for its rural residents.

State investment: 48 c for every \$100.

R&R: Statewide network (+).

HEART Colorado continues to be an innovator on child care, with a range

of new programs that give child care funding and quality initiatives a boost.

State lawmakers developed a new funding source for child care by allowing any taxpayer to check off a box on state tax forms, thereby earmarking part of their tax dollars for child care. The new system routes the money to the Quality Child Care Improvement Fund, which will disburse the funds to centers to buy new equipment, set up training programs for caregivers or take other steps to boost the quality of their programs. Colorado also reinstated a law giving middle-income families a tax break for child care--which could save parents hundreds of dollars a year.

Governor Roy Romer announced a 12-point plan this year to expand and improve child care across the state. Among the more important aspects of the plan: \$2 million is earmarked to help renovate child care facilities in rural areas and to increase money for child care subsidies.

Colorado also overhauled its child care licensing laws to make them more effective. State inspectors will now visit centers that have a history of problems more frequently and inspect those that have achieved accreditation less often. A new law requires all centers to post their latest inspection report so parents can see the results.

CONNECTICUT

STAR STAR STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 284,000

Number of accredited centers: 239

Number of accredited family child care homes: 15

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 4 infants * 4 toddlers * 10 preschoolers * 10 school-agers.

Group size: Good standards.

**Caregiver training: Center directors:
12 college credits to start, plus 1,080**

hours of experience, annual hours of training equal to 1% of hours worked per year. Master teachers: 12 college credits to start, plus 1,080 hours of experience, annual hours of training equal to 1% of hours worked per year.

Center staff: None to start, annual hours of training equal to 1% of hours worked per year. Family child care providers: None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 1+ children.

Immunizations: +.

Playground surfaces: Centers: +. Family child care homes: [ND].

Hand-washing: Poor.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers have unannounced inspections every 2 years; family child care homes have unannounced inspections at least every three years.

FACE A broad, new pre-K initiative will serve thousands of children. The state also increased funding for child care slots for low-wage working families.

State investment: 48 c for every \$100.

R&R: No statewide network.

HEART Governor John Rowland is taking action to expand and improve child care.

Connecticut remains a leader among the states on the child care front. Even with a tight state budget, the governor and state lawmakers have pledged \$10 million in new funds for early education. That means as many as 2,500 children will now have access to pre-kindergarten programs in 4 school districts.

The governor is also committed to establishing many more child care programs across the state by the year 2000. Caregiver training and more pre-K programs are high on the agenda, according to advocate Jude Carroll of the Connecticut Association for Human Services. As we went to press, state lawmakers had just passed a bill to pay a higher rate to caregivers who meet NAEYC training requirements--giving them incentive to meet these higher standards.

In the past year, the state also improved its rules for immunizations--

now all kids in child care must have hepatitis shots before they enroll in a program.

Despite these impressive strides, however, the state has taken a step back, drastically cutting funds for inspecting child care facilities. As a result, centers will merely be required to "register" with the state, rather than meet stricter licensing standards, and child care facilities will no longer be inspected on a regular basis, unless they receive a complaint.

DELAWARE

STAR STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 60,000

Number of accredited centers: 17

**Number of accredited family child care
homes: 45**

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 4 infants * 10 toddlers * 12 preschoolers * 25 school-agers.

Group size: No standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

High school vocational program and 9 credit hours to start, plus 3 years experience; 15 hours annually. Center staff: 60 hours to start, plus 1 year of experience, 15 hours annually.

Family child care providers: 15 hours to start, 12 hours annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Mediocre.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 1+ children.

Immunizations: +.

Playground surfaces: Centers: +. Family child care homes: [ND].

Hand-washing: Good.

Healthy Child Care America: [ND].

Inspections: Centers and 20% of family child care homes have announced inspections at least once a year.

FACE The state eliminated its waiting list for child care and expanded school-age child care programs. **State investment:** 38 c for every \$100. **R&R:** No statewide network.

HEART Delaware maintains its commitment to both expanding and improving child care.

Governor Tom Carper kept his promise to expand child care funding so that all families on the state's waiting list for care would be served. That means that more than 9,000 children now have care in this state.

Delaware's ambitious caregiver training program called Delaware First continues to grow. Thousands of caregivers used the program's services last year, taking courses in areas such as early education and child development.

The state has also expanded care for school-aged children. Over the past few years, more than 1,000 new slots have opened up across the state. "It's growing slowly, but steadily," says Jan Rheingold of the Family & Workplace Connection, a statewide resource and referral agency. "We realize we still have a long way to go." Child care advocates have been working with the Governor to encourage school districts

to make their buildings available for
more before- and after-school
programs--an excellent idea!

WASHINGTON, D.C.

STAR STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE

HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 59,000.

Number of accredited child care
centers: 29.

Number of accredited family child care
homes: 16.

**STAR Number of children one adult can
care for:** 4 infants * 4 toddlers * 8
preschoolers * 15 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

At least 2 years college to start, none
annually. Center Staff: 9 college
credits, plus 3 years experience, none
annually. Family child care providers:
None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Good.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 1+ children.

Immunizations: ++.

Playground surfaces: +.

Hand-washing: Good.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have 1 to 3 unannounced inspections a year.

FACE The supply of child care here has decreased, due to the district's budget problems. **State investment:** NA. **R&R:** No district-wide network.

HEART Child care in the nation's capital is suffering due to the District of Columbia's fiscal woes.

Washington, D.C. has good health, safety and staffing standards in place. But 830 fewer kids under the age of six had access to child care here this year, because of a \$4 million budget cut over the last two years.

Even with its money problems, Washington, D.C. did manage to give 10 grants last year for school-aged care, creating slots for 200 kids in 1996. That, at least, was a help for both

working parents and their children. And the district promises that previously cut funding will be restored next year.

FLORIDA

STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 1,270,000

Number of accredited centers: 359

Number of accredited family child care homes: 89

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 4 infants * 11 toddlers * 15 preschoolers * 25 school-agers.

Group size: No standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

30 hours to start, 8 hours annually.

Center staff: 30 hours to start, 8

hours annually. The state requires that for every 20 children enrolled, at least one teacher have special training in child development. Family child care

providers: 3 hours within 60 days of registration or licensing, none annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Poor.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 2+ children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: Centers: +. Family child care homes: [ND].

Hand-washing: Centers: Fair. Family child care homes: [ND].

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers have inspections at least three times a year (2 unannounced); family child care homes are not inspected by the state.

FACE This state has taken bold steps to expand child care at all levels. State lawmakers approved \$112 million to create new child care slots. **State investment:** 74 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network (+).

HEART Governor Lawton Chiles has been an impressive leader in both expanding the supply and boosting the quality of child care in his state.

Florida stands out among the southern states for its aggressive

action to improve and expand child care. As we went to press, the governor had asked state lawmakers for a significant increase in state funds to create new child care slots. Some \$49 million would be earmarked for a very important group--16,000 children of low-wage workers.

In the past year, the state also boosted funding for its pre-kindergarten program by \$4 million, bringing its pre-K spending to \$107 million. This translates into free pre-K for 27,000 kids, about 2,000 more than last year. This program is funded with state lottery money and is available in all of Florida's 67 school districts.

The state has also improved its requirements for playground surfaces in child care settings. As of March, all centers were required to have soft surfaces under playground equipment. This is a vital change, given that injuries from falls are the most common in child care.

Finally, lawmakers approved a new program to recognize quality child care

programs. Any facility that attains accreditation can now post a "Gold Seal" certificate and will be listed in a state database as a "Gold Seal" program--to show it meets high standards of care. So far, about 370 centers have received certificates, and about 800 more are in the pipeline.

GEORGIA

STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART HEART

THIS STATE
NOT FINAL

Number of children under 6: 625,000

Number of accredited centers: 123

Number of accredited family child care homes: 9

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 6 infants * 10 toddlers * 15 preschoolers * 25 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

None to start, 10 hours annually.

Center staff: 10 hours in the first year, 10 hours annually. Family child care providers: None to start, 10 hours annually.

CROSS Adult supervision: Poor.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 3+ children.

Immunizations: +.

Playground surfaces: +.

Hand-washing: Centers: Fair. Family child care homes: Poor.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers and 10% of family child care homes have unannounced inspections once a year.

FACE The major commitment here is still to pre-K program; otherwise this state lags behind others. **State investment:** 65 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network (+).

HEART The state's commitment to pre-kindergarten continues to be impressive. However, Georgia still needs to put more effort into other areas, such as caregiver training.

No state does a better job of funding pre-kindergarten than Georgia,

thanks to its lottery, which pays for the program. Last year, the state allocated \$211 million to provide care for about 62,000 children. And now the state has created a formal agency, the Office of School Readiness, to oversee pre-kindergarten initiatives across the state. Eventually, every four-year-old in Georgia will have free pre-K education.

As we went to press, state lawmakers had just begun to consider changes in Georgia's child care licensing laws. Most important, the proposals would impose safety standards on more providers.

Will be revised

The state also decided to use federal funds to pay for a public awareness campaign on the need for quality child care. State officials are asking communities around the state to identify one person--a local elected official, a parent, a caregiver--who can be a champion for child care in that community. Those designated will be given materials and support to advocate for the expansion and

improvement of child care. This sounds like a good model to inspire community activism.

HAWAII

STAR STAR STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 106,000

Number of accredited centers: 30

Number of accredited family child care homes: 0

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 4 infants * 8 toddlers * 12 preschoolers * 20 school-agers.

Group size: Good.

Caregiver training: Center directors: 2 years of college in early childhood education, plus four years of experience, none annually. Center staff: 2 years of college in early childhood education, plus experience, none annually. Family child care providers: None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Mediocre.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 3 children.

Immunizations: [ND] (no HepB).

Playground surfaces: Centers: +. Family child care homes: [ND].

Hand-washing: Centers: Good. Family child care homes: Not regulated.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: Centers and family child care homes have announced inspections once a year.

FACE The state funds school-aged care in every elementary school. Hawaii is also working on a plan to make child care a universal service for all its residents. **State investment:** 75 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network (+).

HEART Hawaii remains a model for other states, with its plan for a universal system of child care.

Hawaii remains steadfastly committed to improving and expanding child care, despite growing budget pressures. The state already funds after-school care in every elementary school as well as a variety of other initiatives. It is one

of the only states in the country to develop a plan to guarantee care for every child who needs it.

To reach that goal, state lawmakers pressed ahead with the Good Beginnings initiative, a partnership with private businesses to expand child care options for working parents. Under the auspices of this program, every island now has community councils that are charged with assessing local child care needs and meeting them. The state has directed \$300,000 to these councils.

The state is also planning a public awareness campaign, to educate all residents about the importance of high-quality child care for children's development.

IDAHO

STAR

CROSS

FACE

HEART

Number of children under 6: 108,000

THIS STATE
NOT FINAL

Number of accredited centers: 10

Number of accredited family child care homes: 3

STAR Number of children one adult can care for: 6 infants * 12 toddlers * 12 preschoolers * 18 school-agers.

Group size: No standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors: None to start, 4 hours annually. Center staff: None to start, 4 hours annually. Family child care providers: None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Poor.

Size at which family child care is regulated: 13+ children.

Immunizations: +.

Playground surfaces: [ND].

Hand-washing: Good.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have announced inspections every two years.

FACE This state has no broad initiatives to increase the supply of child care. **State investment:** 14 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network ([ND]).

HEART Idaho deserves recognition for finally passing a law to improve infant

care. However, this state still stands out as one of the worst in the nation.

The big news from Idaho is that state lawmakers voted to give infants a little more protection in child care. In the past, it was perfectly legal for one adult in Idaho to care for as many as 12 infants at a time--an impossible task. This winter, the legislature cut that number in half. That's still too many babies for one adult to handle, as any parent knows! It's also unsafe. Fire safety experts, for example, recommend a ratio of one adult to three children, because it's hard for any adult to carry more than two or three infants out of a building in an emergency.

Idaho was eligible for \$1 million in federal child care funds--but state officials failed to apply for the money.

will be revised

One bright spot: Employers have contributed \$500,000 to a fund for caregiver training, a program administered by the state's resource and referral agency.

ILLINOIS

THIS STATE
NOT FINAL

STAR STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS CROSS

FACE FACE FACE

HEART HEART HEART

Number of children under 6: 1,052,000

Number of accredited centers: 212

Number of accredited family child care
homes: 88

STAR Number of children one adult can
care for: 4 infants * 8 toddlers * 10
preschoolers * 20 school-agers.

Group size: Mediocre to poor standards.

Caregiver training: Center directors:

10 to 18 college credits, plus some
experience, none annually. Center

staff: 6 college credits, 15 hours

annually. Family child care providers:

None.

CROSS Adult supervision: Mediocre.

Size at which family child care is
regulated: 4+ children.

Immunizations: +.

Playground surfaces: Centers: +. Family child care homes: [ND].

Hand-washing: Good.

Healthy Child Care America: +.

Inspections: All licensed programs have unannounced inspections once a year.

FACE Illinois spends \$112 million on pre-K programs. The state has also created new subsidies for middle-income working parents--an important innovation. **State investment:** 97 c for every \$100. **R&R:** Statewide network ([ND]).

HEART Illinois continues to be more dedicated to child care than many of its neighbors.

Illinois has made a serious commitment to early education, funding pre-kindergarten programs to the tune of \$112 million, almost a 10 percent increase over last year. Some 3,500 kids now attend pre-K. State officials approved another \$40 million in child care subsidies, which will enable many moms with lower-paying jobs to stay in the workforce. Starting this year, workers earning 40 to 60 percent of the

median income in the state will be eligible for new child care subsidies.

Illinois has also launched a new caregiver training program, modeled after the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps program (T.E.A.C.H.) in North Carolina. Under this initiative, caregivers can apply for scholarships to take courses in early education. Once they have completed the coursework, they are eligible for raises or bonuses.

There's still plenty of room for improvement in the child care picture in Illinois, as in other states, however. An important bill called "Start Early," which would have expanded the pre-kindergarten program to make it full-day across the state, only made it as far as the House. This is the third year in a row lawmakers have failed to approve this initiative.

INDIANA

STAR STAR STAR

CROSS CROSS