



The Early Education Partnership Investing in Early Education

Child care plays a critical role in economic development by supporting workers, attracting businesses, and providing an educational foundation for the community. The Day Care and Child Development Council of Tompkins County, Inc. and the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce request your assistance in identifying innovative approaches to support quality child care, and invites community leaders from the business, government, and non-profit sectors to join in this collaborative effort.

The quality of care for today's children has significant implications for tomorrow's workforce.

Early childhood education is a critical part of our education system and yet receives little public investment. Research confirms that early care and education can help prepare children for school and success by fostering their social, intellectual, and physical development.

More quality child care is needed in Tompkins County.

Many children are cared for in environments that are safe, but provide limited opportunity for learning. The number of licensed providers who are trained to educate young children is vastly insufficient to serve the needs of working families in Tompkins County. Unfortunately, low wages for child care providers cause a turnover as high as 30% per year, a rate that is clearly detrimental to the stability and quality of care for children.

Child care poses a serious financial burden for many families.

Many families pay up to 35% of their yearly income for child care. Consequently such high costs force many families to turn to alternative, often less reliable forms of care.

The shortage of quality child care is a significant economic concern for local businesses.

The shortage of quality child care directly affects the ability of employers to maintain a steady and productive workforce. Businesses cannot thrive if they must depend on personnel who have unstable child care arrangements.

Join the Early Education Partnership and help identify innovative approaches to support quality child care in Tompkins County.

Parent fees are not sufficient to cover the costs of child care. As a community we must acknowledge these challenges and identify new sources of public and private support to make this a more profitable sector. Business and government alliances across the nation are developing new and creative approaches. Community leaders in Tompkins County can play an important role in solving this crisis in the child care sector, and we invite you to join us.

The Early Education Partnership is a project of
The Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce and Day Care and Child Development Council

This document can be accessed at <http://government.cce.cornell.edu/doc/pdf/challenges.pdf>

www.daycarecouncil.org (607) 273-0259
-quality child care affordable to all-