



TALKING POINTS

- Child care helps parents go to work, go to school, and support their families. In 2010, 85% of families indicated that they used child care assistance so they could go to work.¹
- Child care providers offer a safe place for children. Providers also support families by connecting them to other community resources they may need for their families.
- Child care providers support local businesses. They buy food, supplies, equipment, and other educational materials from other businesses.
- Child care providers create jobs by hiring individuals to support their business, such as teaching assistants and cooks.
- Quality child care helps prepare children for school by developing their social, emotional, and cognitive skills. Child care strengthens a child's development before they enter preschool and kindergarten and helps them succeed in formal classroom settings. Quality child care helps to prepare the next generation of community leaders and learners.

What might people who disagree say to me? What can I say back to them?

"Families should pay for their own child care. The government cannot afford to pay for child care."

- Child care costs can be expensive! A family of three earning \$42,500 with an infant can spend up to 28% of their income on child care.² Affordable child care reduces a financial burden that allows parents to go to work and to school to support their families.

"If a child care business is doing well, why should taxpayers support child care programs?"

- Programs supported by public funds are important for families that are struggling to pay for childcare. Additionally, government resources invest in improving the quality of child care so that children can be prepared for school.
- The economic impact tool is just one way to understand a provider's contribution to the economy. The tool should not be used as to judge or compare one provider to another.

"Our state cannot afford to pay its own bills, and therefore, it should not pay for child care."

- Child care affects everyone – not just people that have children. For instance, if we cut child care, we hurt businesses that have parents as employees.
- Investing in child care is an investment in children's education today and in the future. These same children will become our future business leaders, civic leaders, and community members.

¹ Illinois Department of Human Services. "Child Care Report FY 2010." <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=55434>

² Illinois Action For Children. "How much do families need to spend on child care?" 2009.

http://www.actforchildren.org/content_assets/MDP_FactsFigures_FactSheet_WhatPercent3.pdf