

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Nicole Rabner

DT: January 10, 2000

FR: Grace Reef & Helen Blank
Children's Defense Fund 202-628-8787

RE: New CDF Child Care & Early Education Fact Book

Attached you will find CDF's newest "Key Facts" book about child care, early education, and school-age care. It's a simple-to-read resource guide that provides great background for memos, speeches, or talking points. If you have any questions or would like additional copies of this publication, please call Grace Reef, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, at 662-3558 or email greelf@childrensdefense.org or call Helen Blank, Director of Child Care and Early Education, at 202-662-3547 or email hblank@childrensdefense.org

The "Key Facts" Book

The Key Facts book is divided into 5 parts. Part I describes why quality child care, early education, and school-age programs are important in the development of infants and children.

- In 1998, two out of three women (65%) with children younger than six, and three-quarters of women with children ages six to 17 (78%), were in the labor force. In addition, growing numbers of women with very young children are in the workforce – 62% of women with children younger than three were in the labor force in 1998. These working mothers must find someone to care for their children in order to work.
- Each day, an estimated 13 million children younger than six -- including children with mothers who work outside the home and mothers who do not -- spend some or all of their day being cared for by someone other than their parents.
- Many children across the nation are in poor quality care, and are not getting the early care and education they need to be safe and to get a strong start. Low-income children face particular difficulties in getting the care that can help them succeed.
- Kindergarten teachers estimate that one in three children enters the classroom unprepared to meet the challenges of school.

Part II examines specific barriers families encounter in trying to find affordable, quality, child care, early education, and school-age care. Part III provides background information on the role of federal, state, and local governments, as well as community organizations and the private sector. Part III also includes fact sheets on child care policies, Head Start, state prekindergarten initiatives, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Part IV focuses on the broad support for quality care among parents, public officials, and others. Finally, Part V consists of state by state tables of data we hope will be helpful to you in understanding what's happening in your state and surrounding states, as well as states in different geographic locations.

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KEY FACTS

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT CHILD CARE, EARLY EDUCATION, AND SCHOOL-AGE CARE



Children's Defense Fund

1999 Edition