



DOWNTOWN SANTA BARBARA EMPLOYER CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP



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Child care is like roads, parents need both to get to work.

Employee Child Care Project Update

We are very excited about the Downtown Santa Barbara Employee Child Care study findings and the opportunity to collectively examine the results through a public/private lens.

The Partnership is preparing to present the key findings to

the County Board of Supervisors next month. In addition, individual employer reports will also be available in the near future.

Stay posted for details regarding upcoming important dates and opportunities to get involved

in the project's next steps.



The Economy's Impact on Child Care

Over 11 million children under age 5 spend a portion of their day, every week, in the care of someone other than their mother.

The average young child of a working mom spends about 36 hours a week in such care. About one-quarter of these children are in multiple child care arrangements strung together by their parents.

The quality of care varies greatly and many working families struggle with the cost of care. With the current economic crisis, quality child care settings are even more important to the healthy development of children. In too many cases involving low income families, child care is the only place that children may receive a

nutritious meal and snack, given that food is often one of the first places parents sacrifice as their family budget becomes tighter.

The most recent data shows that over 11 million Americans are out of work. Another 8 million are working part-time because they cannot find full-time work. The number of such workers rose by 3.4 million over the past 12 months.

As parents lose employment, as their hours are cutback, they are taking their children out of organized child care and making due with whatever arrangement they can find (hoping it's safe, hoping it meets health and safety standards, hoping the arrangement is temporary until times are better).

Quality child care is the linchpin between working families and safe children. With the current economy, parents are forced to make many difficult decisions about the care of their children.

Additional child care funding will help more parents afford child care and help retain the child care workforce so that parents retain access to quality care.

Child care is critical - not just for families so that parents can work but also for children, particularly at a time where they need more continuity and stability in their lives.

Article retrieved from <http://www.naccrra.org/policy/economy/>

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