



PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER DURING THIS PANDEMIC

While K-12 schools are closing, and many are moving to remote forms of learning for an undetermined amount of time to slow the spread of COVID-19, the state of Minnesota has urged licensed child care programs to remain open to meet the needs of our community. Many are rising to the occasion to support the children they love, but not without a cost.

Here are some ways you can support them during this challenging time:

- **Tuition:** We know many workers are being given the option to work from home, take time off, or have received generous offers for free childcare from schools or acquaintances. Please continue to pay your child care provider, even if you opt to keep your children at home. Family child care providers operate at a low profit margin and incur expenses for each child in care, whether they attend or not. These expenses like curriculum, supplies, insurance, and other general operating expenses will not go away just because you keep your child home. Providers cannot remain in business without a reliable source of income. If you want a child care program to which you can bring your children when this pandemic is over, continue to pay your tuition.
- **Supplies:** Due to stockpiling and high demand, shelves at many stores are empty and some providers have begun to have difficulty finding basic necessities for operating. Check in with your provider and see if s/he is running low. If you have extras you are willing to donate, great! If not, an extra set of eyes when you're out shopping would be so helpful.
- **Time:** Remaining open during an event like this will require hours of extra disinfecting and cleaning each week on top of already long work weeks. Be mindful of that and pick your children up as soon as you are able.
- **Policies:** Your provider will have additional policies as an extra precaution. These might seem drastic but could save lives. Please follow them strictly and understand that providers are in a difficult position trying to serve as many of their families as they can while keeping everyone safe. If your provider or one of his/her family members contracts this virus, all families will likely be out of care for 3-6 weeks. Please have plans for a backup provider or two.
- **Kindness:** This is an unsettling time for family child care providers who face longer hours, extra expenses, and are operating under the threat of a prolonged closure due to something that is entirely out of their control. Be patient. Be kind. Be understanding. Please **thank your provider** for staying open and continuing to love your children and be a place where they feel safe as schools and businesses around them close.