

January 8, 2023

Committee Members

My name is Linda Schroeder and I have operated my own in-home family childcare business for the past 32 years. I enrolled in the online Early Childhood Program through Mayville in January of 2022. I made this decision because after over 30 years I was asked to get 2 letters of recommendation because I do not have an Early Childhood Degree. I have the mindset that being a lifelong learner is a good thing. I have not regretted my decision. What I have discovered is this. ND Growing Futures which is the agency that approves and allocates training for childcare provider does apply credit for all the classes that are in the Early Childhood Program through Mayville. They need to meet very specific requirements. When I inquired why I was only given credit for 6 classes out of 10 that I submitted I was provided the links below as explanation.

<https://www.ndgrowingfutures.org/higher-education>

<https://www.ndgrowingfutures.org/adding-college-courses-to-record>

The transition of childcare in the past three decades as been full of changes. As we continue to move forward, I would ask that you be open to asking questions, being curious and allowing for a broadened perspective to be part of the future of childcare. The childcare industry is essential for growth and development of our state and nation.

I am curious about the fact that my childcare license is for children birth to age 12. I can and have had children older than 12 enrolled in my program. These children are often in foster care or have special needs and need a placement. However, Growing Futures states the course content needs to be 80% specific to Early Childhood. I simply do not agree. If the course work applies and directed towards children, it should count. Why cap it for children up to age 8 when a license application goes beyond that age category?

My husband and I became licensed for Foster Care, and we took over 50 hours of training to become licensed. I could not receive 1 single hour of that training that I could apply to my ND Growing Futures because I was told the training was foster care specific. Yes, the training was related to foster care and children are in foster care. I have had numerous foster care children enrolled into my childcare program over the years. Foster Care children attend childcare just like other children and they come with a multitude of added challenges and needs. It is my opinion that the training be reviewed, and credit should be applied. There is a need for childcare providers and foster care. Why are we not working together and acknowledging training that applies to the needs of "children".

We took at CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute) training for foster care.

This training event took place over a 2-day period. The content went over children and the trauma, conflict, and challenges they face and how you deal with their emotions and behavior challenges. This directly related to "children". I was told I would get no credit for any of the

time even though the children I see in childcare are experiencing more and more trauma. I attended the meeting at the Middle School in Fargo prior to Christmas that about 12 legislators attended. I attended the meeting because I am a student at Mayville, and I was given information about the meeting by ND United that I became a member of. I was present when the teachers talked about students Vaping as young as first grade. The safety concerns that are present when the teacher talked about her student throwing her to the floor in October and she is still recovering and going to physical therapy in December. I was there and heard about the principal that was hit 17 times with a chair leg before the student could be gotten under control. I have been slammed into a wall by a 6-year-old that wears a crash helmet due to seizures, braces on his legs and exhibits aggressive behavior when he doesn't not want to transition from an activity. This child happens to also be in foster care and attends my childcare. Dealing with that circumstance I was able to utilize my training from that CPI class that ND Growing Futures does not acknowledge.

Childcare needs regarding the care of children have radically changed over the years. Family dynamics are anything but typical. As providers we start to deal with all the challenges that school settings see in children as young as infants along with the varying ages of children in home childcares and centers. We need to acknowledge the big picture. As we move forward with future legislation regarding childcare, I believe it is vital that we be open to considering additional professional and academic opportunities that allow providers the opportunity to receive and experience training in the form of classes, webinars and conferences that acknowledges the full spectrum of what children, families, and providers experience. We cannot elevate childcare and Early Childhood programs with tunnel vision. Childcare is not black and white we are dealing with a rainbow of issues, challenges, and circumstances.

I appreciate your time. I would be happy answer any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

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