

# I am for the continued monthly stipends for childcare.

The monthly stipends are so important to be continued! They help us stay in business and provide the best care for the children in our care. Everyone is hurting right now in this economy and we can't raise our childcare rates every time there is an inflation (which seems to be multiple times a year) if we continue to raise our rates, parents will not be able to afford it and they will pull their children out, causing us to have to shut down. Childcare is SO NEEDED!! It helped me be able to open a daycare and provide an amazing program, purchase things that are beneficial for the children, purchase curriculum, things needed for administrative duties, hire an assistant, buy healthier food options for the children and so much more! I was able to do all this and still afford all of my families personal bills, pay out of pocket health and dental insurance for myself and my child, as well as be able to provide medical and dental for my employee (which is not cheap!) If these monthly stipends do not continue, I will have no other choice than to raise my rates, which will make it harder for parents to afford and I won't be able to provide as much for the children in my care and for my family. Please continue the monthly stipends! Childcare is ESSENTIAL and without it, people and the economy suffer.

Thank you,  
Kristina Wittmayer  
Owner of Happy Hearts Playschool