Take Your Seat at the Table:

Child Care Advocacy Day, February 3rd, 2027

If you're not at the table, you're on the menu.

Why an Advocacy Day?

- Child care providers keep Washington's economy running but are rarely invited into decisions about their work.
- Recent cuts to child care in Washington State are dismantling the system and making it difficult for child care businesses to pencil out.
- Programs have closed and more may follow leaving families without care and employers without a workforce.
- Many providers are staging a Walk Out and taking a Field Trip to Olympia on February 3rd, 2027.
- Not every program can close, but there are many participation options from wearing blue and posting a sign, to sending a delegation to Olympia and partially closing.
- Every action sends the message that child care is essential and providers deserve a seat at the table too!

Child Care is **ESSENTIAL**! Providers deserve a seat at the table!



Mix & Match Based on Your Program's Capacity! Every Action Counts.

#SeatsNotSilence

Sign up at: www.wachild.org

For Providers:
Start Small, Stand Together

Appetizers

- Post an “Open in Solidarity” sign in your window or at the door explaining the importance of February 3rd.
- Post a wage or cost “reality board” showing off staff pay, tuition, and what it costs to run your program.
- Wear blue in solidarity or a blue button and/or sticker. Invite staff and families to do the same!
- Post photos and stories on social media using our shared hashtag: #ChildCareIsEssential!
- Create an “empty chair” or “empty cubby” display showing what child care shortages look like in the community.



Sides

- Schedule a symbolic pause: have a scheduled 10-minute walk or stroller parade with signs then return inside.
- Hold a "silent minute" or circle time where staff and kids pause for a short statement about why child care matters
- Invite legislators, local officials, or community members for a “Walk-In” to visit and see the work you do at your program.

GREATER SEATTLE CHILD CARE BUSINESS COALITION

Every Action Counts

Shared Hashtag: #ChildCareIsEssential

For Providers:
Bigger Bites, Flexible Ways



Entrees - Send a Delegation to Olympia while Center Runs

- Send one or two representatives (e.g., owner, director, or willing staff member) to participate in the Field Trip to Olympia.
- Use floaters and subsitutes to maintain ratios.
- Recruit families and volunteers to help out for the day!
- Organize a group of centers to send one shared delegation.

Chef's Specials - Partial or Flexible Closures

- Open late or close early after giving families plenty of notice.
- Offer a "Walk Out" option for staff who want to participate, with optional cover.
- Inform staff of proffessional development opportunities through WCCA including STARs credit.





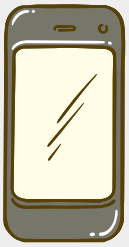
The Main Course - Close for the Day & Participate in Field Trip to Olympia with Staff & Families

- Close doors so staff can take a Field Trip to Olympia and join in rallies advocating for child care.
- Help families plan with advance notice, provide backup options, and extend an invitation to travel to Olympia.
- Coordinate with other programs closing for the day to broaden community impact.

Every Participation Level Belongs at the Table!

Take-Out: Participate Remotely!



1. 
   Call or email your legislators on February 3rd, 2027!

2. 
   Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000

3. 
   Sign up to give virtual testimony for a child care bill.

4. 
   Hold a staff "call-in" break & call legislators together.

For Familes

Go to Olympia: Attend the Field Trip to advocate for child care! Carpool with other families to attend the rally, share personal stories about the cost of care, waitlists and/or missed work.

Show out: Wear blue or designated sticker/button. Post your family's stories using #ChildCareIsEssential on social media!



Call or write legislators from home or work!

For Kids

- ✓ Make signs
- ✓ Make art and letters for legislators
- ✓ Take a class photo with art & signs



#ChildCareCantWait

Sign up at: www.wachild.org

Before You Commit



Careful planning helps your center stay safe, compliant, and connected to families. Use this checklist to set your plan for success!

LICENCING & RATIOS - Confirm ratio & supervision rules with DCYF is using volunteers or reduced staff.

SUBSIDY RULES - If serving Working connections families, check how attendance and closures are handled.

EARLY COMMUNICATION - Tell families early and clearly what to expect, including whether the center is open, closed, or on a modified schedule.

SAFETY & LIABILITY - Plan outings and field trips with usual supervision and permission slips.



Choose what fits your program! Every Action Counts.

#ChildCareIsEssential

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Together, we make child care VISIBLE!

RAISE AWARENESS

SUPPORT PROVIDERS



ADVOCATE TOGETHER

BUILD A STRONGER FUTURE



On February 3rd, 2027, choose the action that fits your program, your staff and your families.

From a sign in the window to a Field Trip to Olympia, every action helps make child care visible.



Child Care is Essential.

Providers belong at the table.

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Field Trip to the State Capitol

Child Care Advocacy Day, February 3rd, 2027



Travel to Olympia for a Field Trip to the State Capitol. Families and children are encouraged to attend!

Join other providers from around the state to show Washington that child care is the work that makes ALL other work possible!

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Together, we make child care VISIBLE!

Events from 10AM-12PM

Make signs, learn through educational activites, & complete a scavenger hunt!

#ChildCareIsEssential

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