



# The Child Care for Every Family Network's Shared Values



## **Valuing Child Care**

We believe child care must be fundamentally valued and seen as a part of the full spectrum of care each of us deserves from early days to end of life. Child care is a shared public good with innumerable benefits, but to deliver on its potential it requires a robust government response. Therefore, governments at every level (from local to national) must prioritize and adequately invest public dollars in building and implementing an equitable child care system that is accountable to the people who need it and who provide care through it. Child care for us includes early care and education programs for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age kids.

## **Building an Inclusive System**

We need a child care system designed for all types of providers (in a center, school, community or home setting) that give options to meet the needs of *all* families (defining families broadly and inclusively) and that supports the well-being of children (recognizing their inherent dignity, equality, and inalienable rights). We reject a scarcity mindset that pits families, providers, and children against each other for too-scarce resources. When families and providers are well-supported, children thrive. Everyone thrives.

## **Centering Anti-Racism**

Our work is guided by a shared acknowledgment that the current system of caregiving in this country is rooted in systemic racism and upholds practices that continue to harm Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. Today's system remains stigmatizing, insufficient, and narrow, and pays unsustainably low wages to providers.

Therefore, any steps we take together must be in service of realizing our vision, rather than upholding a fundamentally flawed system. We must change our ways to get better results for all.

### **Centering Gender Justice & Intersectional Analysis**

The burdens of our flawed child care system are disproportionately shouldered by women, particularly women of color (specifically Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and immigrant women), who are paid a lower income and whose labor, both in our families and in our workplaces, has been and continues to be undervalued. We trust women and transgender and gender queer people to make the best choices for themselves and their lives and see access to child care as an essential element of reproductive justice. Therefore, to find solutions we must understand the child care system through an intersectional analysis that includes race, gender, ability and class.

### **Honoring Experiences & Voices**

We believe in building the system from the bottom up and authentically centering the voices and experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) women and communities, immigrants, children with disabilities, and those most directly impacted by the failings and barriers in the current child care system—both families and providers. In our work, we seek to support engagement through language access and financial support, whenever possible. The knowledge and lived experiences of these stakeholders will shape fairer and more effective policies and practices.



**For more information about the Child Care for Every Family Network and our partners, visit [childcareforeveryfamily.org](https://childcareforeveryfamily.org).**

