

Infant and Toddler Care



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Infant and toddler care is becoming a major issue within our community and throughout the country (“Hot Topics,” 2018). The costs and regulations associated with care for children of this age make it very challenging for many families to find care. This results in a change within our economy as many parents have to stay home with their children or have to leave their children in undesirable situations based on limited options.

Infants and toddlers used to be cared for in the home when most women stayed home or at family daycares. Also many more families have limited access to support from their family members. The societal and cultural basis is that children of this age will stay home with the mother or another family member and that at this age learning is simple and limited. We now know that learning at this age affects children throughout their whole lives. With the changes in families in society many no longer have the option to stay at home (Coontz, 2007). Now there are less in-home daycares because of regulations and costs and more families than ever have either both parents working or are single parent families. There has now become an increase in need for infant and toddler care while the cost has skyrocketed. The cost of placement is very high and the availability of spaces is limited (Johnson, 2018).

Research shows that interventions for children ages 0-5 can make significant differences for the success of the child during their lifetime. The strongest effects of quality child care are found with at-risk children (Cohen & Lurie-Hurvitz, 2009). This affects all social and human services because children will need fewer services in their lifetime if their needs are met early on. This situation also affects social and human services now because parents are not able to work and provide their children with care so they become in need of more services to support themselves and their families.

The cost of childcare for this age group does not allow many facilities to make money. This leads to caregivers that are under-qualified, high staff ratios and limited spaces available to children. Some research shows that low income children are those with the greatest need for childcare center services and can benefit the most while high income children may not do as well as their peers if entered into childcare centers (Cohen & Lurie-Hurvitz, 2009). Licensing laws vary from state to state.

Sources

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