

# Fargo Major Employer Child Care Needs Assessment

Survey Completion Date: September 5, 2008 to October 18, 2008



1. How many children in your family are between the ages of six weeks and 12 months?	
	Number of Response(s)
0	454
1	157
2	21
3 or more	6
No Responses	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>

2. How many children in your family are between 13 months and 24 months old?	
	Number of Response(s)
0	485
1	138
2	0
3 or more	0
No Responses	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>

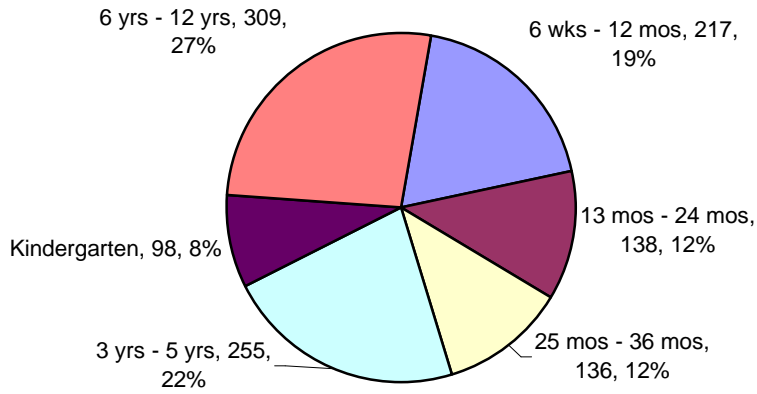
3. How many children in your family are between 25 months and 36 months?	
	Number of Response(s)
0	483
1	130
2	3
3 or more	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>616</b>

4. How many children in your family are preschoolers? (3 yrs. up to 5 years)	
	Number of Response(s)
0	370
1	233
2	16
3 or more	0
No Responses	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>

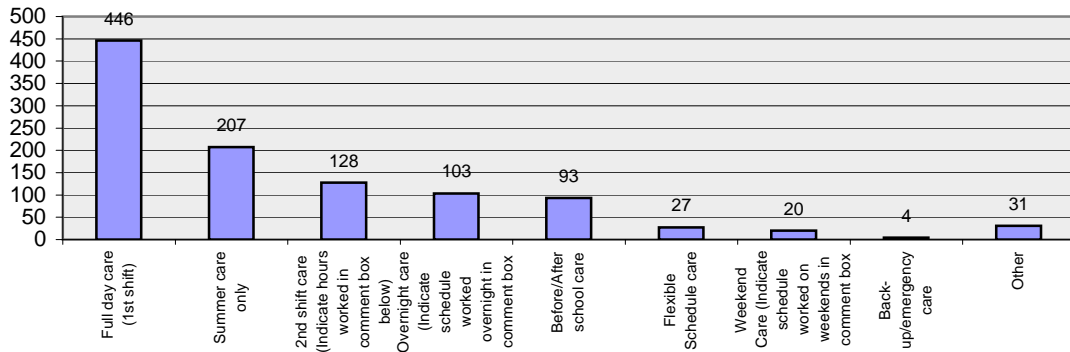
5. How many children in your family are kindergartners? (5-6 yrs)	
	Number of Response(s)
0	503
1	98
2	0
3 or more	0
No Responses	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>

6. How many children in your family are elementary school-age children? (6 yrs. to 12 yrs.)	
	Number of Response(s)
0	382
1	178
2	58
3 or more	5
No Responses	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>

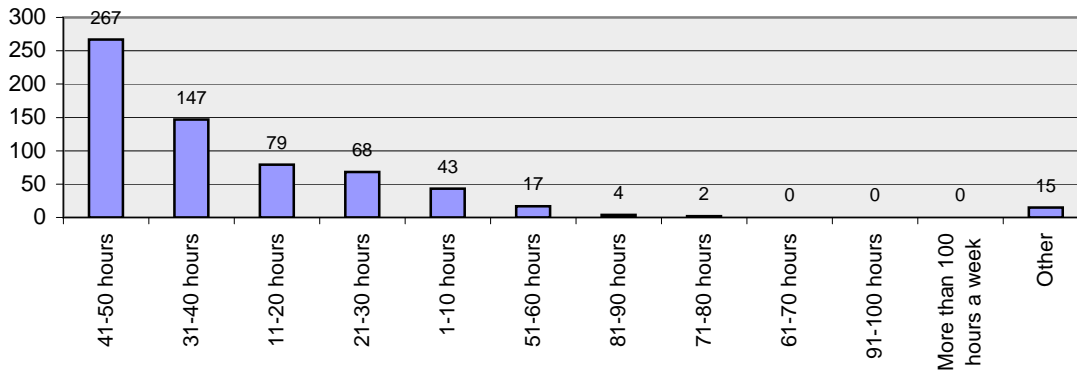
### Ages of Respondents' Children



### Types of care needed by respondents



### Number hours per week respondents need care



**7. Over the last 12 months, have you used child care for any children in your care?**

	Number of Response(s)
Yes	576
No	57
No Responses	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>

**8. Do you anticipate needing child care in the next 12 months?**

	Number of Response(s)
Yes	598
No	33
No Responses	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>

**9. Please check the types of child care needed for your children over the past 12 months**

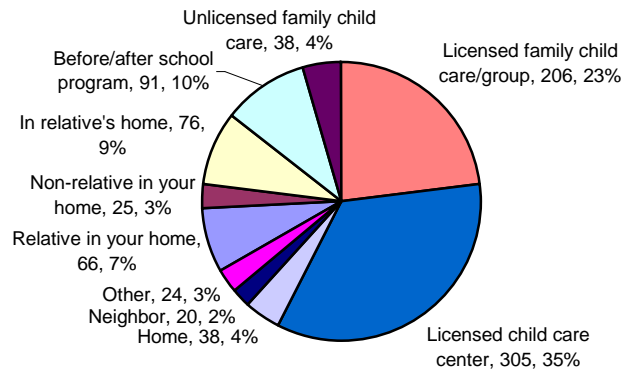
	Number of Response(s)
Full day care (1st shift)	446
Summer care only	207
2nd shift care (Indicate hours worked in comment box below)	128
Overnight care (Indicate schedule worked overnight in comment box below)	103
Before/After school care	93
Flexible Schedule care	27
Weekend Care (Indicate schedule worked on weekends in comment box below)	20
Back-up/emergency care	4
Other	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>1083</b>

**10. Considering the child in your family who uses care the most, how many hours per week do you use/need child care for that child?**

	Number of Response(s)
41-50 hours	267
31-40 hours	147
11-20 hours	79
21-30 hours	68
1-10 hours	43
51-60 hours	17
81-90 hours	4
71-80 hours	2
61-70 hours	0
91-100 hours	0
More than 100 hours a week	0
Other	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>642</b>

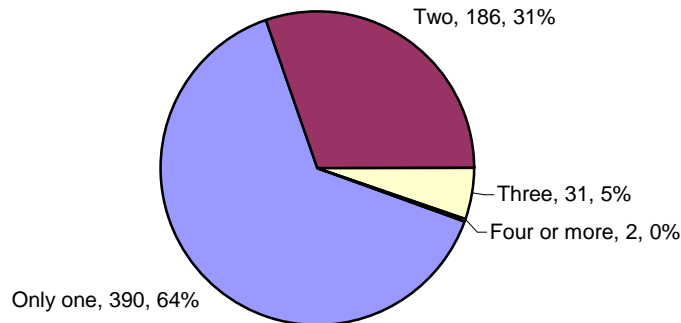
11. Please tell us how care is provided for your children while you work. Check all that apply.	
	Number of Response(s)
Relative in your home	66
Non-relative in your home	25
In relative's home	76
Before/after school program	91
Unlicensed family child care	38
Licensed family child care/group	206
Licensed child care center	305
Home	38
Neighbor	20
Other	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>889</b>

**Type of care currently used by respondents**



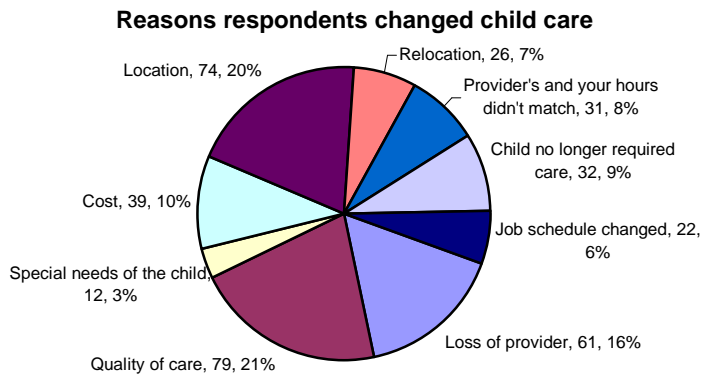
12. How many different types of child care arrangements do you use each week for children in your care? (For example, using a neighbor down the street plus a child care center)	
	Number of Response(s)
Only one	390
Two	186
Three	31
Four or more	2
No Responses	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>

**Number of different child care arrangements**



15. How many times have you changed child care programs in the past year?	
	Number of Response(s)
None	378
1	164
2	44
3	10
4 or more	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>598</b>

16. What were the reasons for the changes (mark all that apply)?	
	Number of Response(s)
Loss of provider	61
Quality of care	79
Special needs of the child	12
Cost	39
Location	74
Relocation	26
Provider's and your hours didn't match	31
Child no longer required care	32
Job schedule changed	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>376</b>



17. Do you have reliable back-up child care when your regular care is unavailable?	
	Number of Response(s)
Always	47
Most of the time	148
Sometimes	146
Rarely	132
Never	146
<b>Total</b>	<b>619</b>

18. How many times have your child care arrangements fallen through in the past 6 months?	
	Number of Response(s)
None	303
1-3	253
4-7	53
8-11	9
12 or more	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>621</b>

**19. What do you do in situations in which your child care arrangements fall through? Please mark all that apply.**

	Number of Response(s)
Found someone to care for children	158
You or a family member stayed home	486
Left work early/came to work late	242
Brought child to work	33
Other	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>943</b>

**20. In the past 6 months, as a result of a child care dilemma, estimate how many days you have missed work.**

	Number of Response(s)
none	251
1-2	218
3-4	97
5-6	29
7 or more	12
No Responses	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>

**21. In the past 6 months, as a result of a child care dilemma, estimate how many days you have been late to work.**

	Number of Response(s)
none	387
1-2	139
3-4	47
5-6	17
7 or more	17
No Responses	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>

**22. In the past 6 months, as a result of a child care dilemma, estimate the number of times that you left work early.**

	Number of Response(s)
none	290
1-2	202
3-4	68
5-6	20
7 or more	22
No Responses	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>

**23. In the past 6 months, as a result of a child care issue, estimate the number of times each week you are contacted at work with child care concerns.**

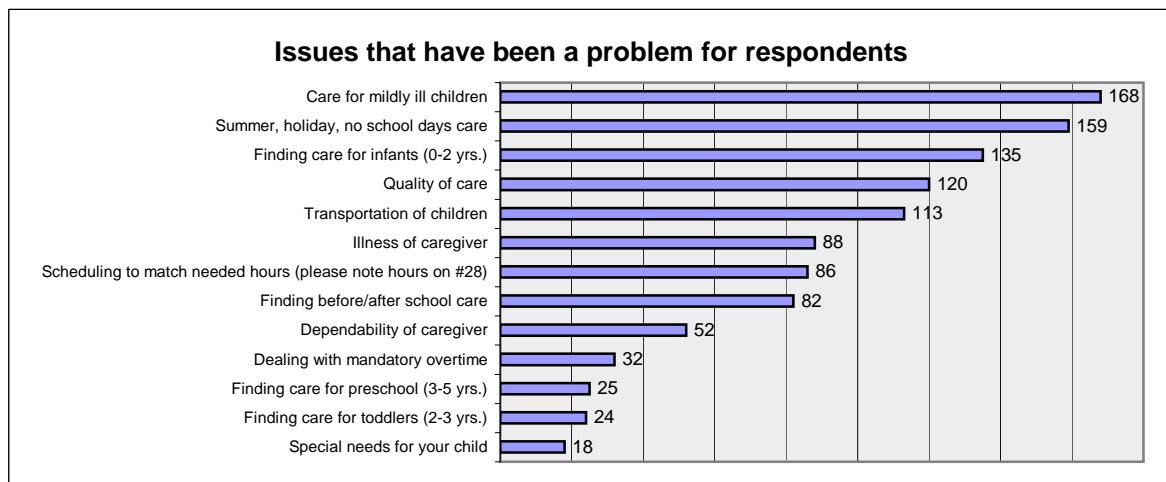
	Number of Response(s)
none	358
1-2	198
3-4	34
5 or more	9
No Responses	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>

**24. When absent from work to handle child care situations, which types of leave did you take?**

	Number of Response(s)
Paid sick	169
Unpaid sick	48
Vacation/Paid Time Off	326
Personal	52
Time without pay	66
FMLA	5
Other	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>722</b>

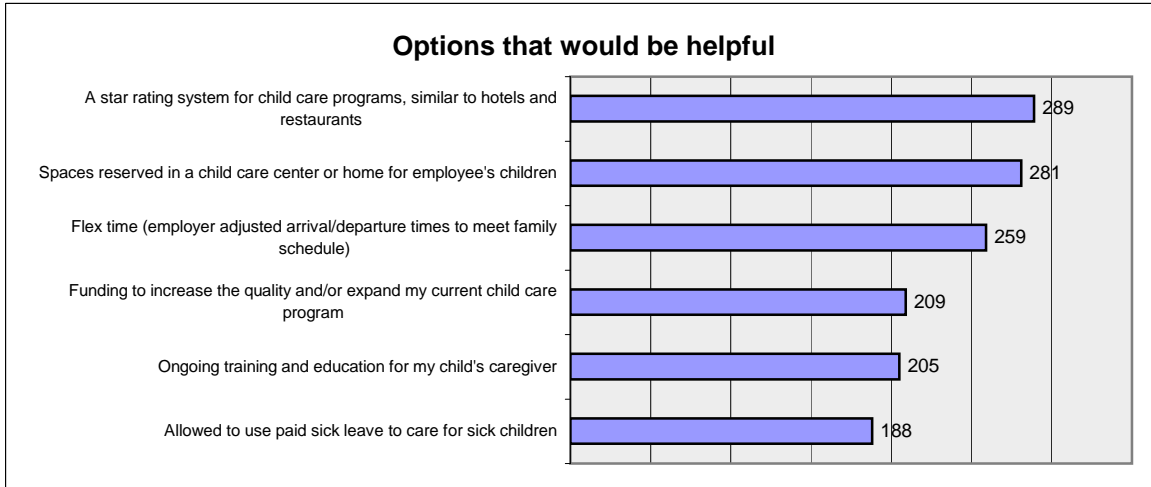
**25. Check any issues that have been a problem for you during the past year: (Check all that apply)**

	Number of Response(s)
Care for mildly ill children	168
Summer, holiday, no school days care	159
Finding care for infants (0-2 yrs.)	135
Quality of care	120
Transportation of children	113
Illness of caregiver	88
Scheduling to match needed hours (please note hours on #28)	86
Finding before/after school care	82
Dependability of caregiver	52
Dealing with mandatory overtime	32
Finding care for preschool (3-5 yrs.)	25
Finding care for toddlers (2-3 yrs.)	24
Special needs for your child	18
Other	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>1144</b>



**26. Which of the following options would be helpful for you:**

	<b>Number of Response(s)</b>
A star rating system for child care programs, similar to hotels and	289
Spaces reserved in a child care center or home for employee's	281
Flex time (employer adjusted arrival/departure times to meet family	259
Funding to increase the quality and/or expand my current child care	209
Ongoing training and education for my child's caregiver	205
Allowed to use paid sick leave to care for sick children	188
<b>Total</b>	<b>1450</b>



**27. What additional comments do you have about finding or using child care?**

**28. What hours do you primarily need child care?**

**29. Name of Employer (include site name if applicable, i.e. MeritCare - Southpointe)**

**30. Zip code of Employer**

**31. Your Name (optional, would be used only to contact you for further participation)**

**32. Phone number (optional)**

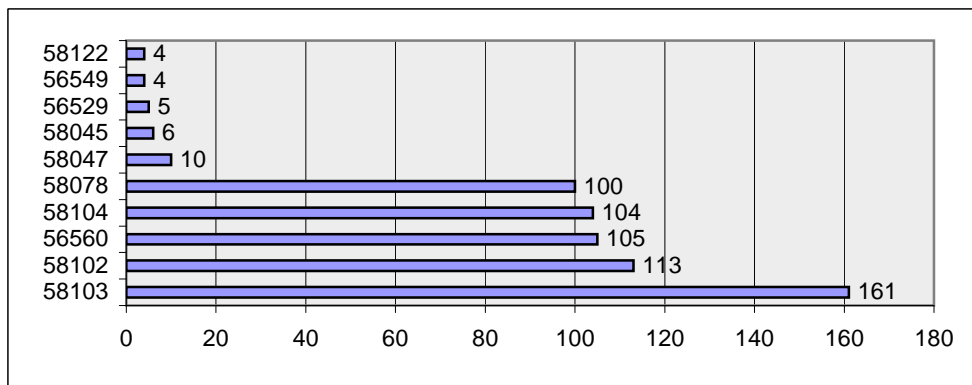
**33. E-mail address: (optional)**

**34. Are you interested in working with a committee which will focus on community child care needs? (If you check 'Yes', please complete #31, 32, 33.)**

	<b>Number of Response(s)</b>
Yes	75
No	483
<b>Total</b>	<b>558</b>

**13. In what zip code would you prefer child care program to be?**

58103	161	South
58102	113	North
56560	105	Moorhead
58104	104	Far South
58078	100	West
58047	10	Horace
58045	6	Hillsboro
56529	5	Dilworth
56549	4	Hawley
58122	4	MeritCare



**14. For F-M area respondents, please rank your preference for the location of your child care program.**

	1	2	3	Top 3
Top number is the count of respondents selecting the North Fargo (North of Main Ave.)	95	45	40	180
South Central Fargo (Main to I-94, East of I-29)	50	77	71	198
South Fargo (I-94 to 32nd Ave., East of I-29)	56	88	102	246
Far South Fargo (South of 32nd Ave., East of I-29)	63	59	59	181
Southwest Fargo (South of 13th Ave., West of I-29)	43	53	79	175
West Fargo - north of I-94	47	32	34	113
West Fargo - south of I-94	35	51	30	116
South Moorhead	52	22	26	100
North Moorhead	17	47	25	89
Other (please add comment)	28	12	19	59

## Survey Comments

### 9. Please check the types of child care needed for your children over the past 12 months - Other responses

Summer and After School Care

4 days / week

Part-time care and days off from school care/will need summer care

full-days 2-3 days/week

we will need full-time childcare in 3 months for our infant

currently not using daycare but will be

3 times a week/ m-f 8-5

would not need on Fridays

school out days

7a-7p

SUMMER FULL DAY 1ST SHIFT

some evenings

nanny

With Transportation

no school days care

part time care

Childcare at the YMCA Playstation

no summers only school year

Professional development days and school out days

school year only

6 weeks in the summer

after school only

Drop-in care

drop in for errands, etc.

We are due with our first child on Nov. 14th

neither

child care provider who knows sign language

Part-time summer care

Summer Care

Every other Saturday afternoon

### 9. Please check the types of child care needed for your children over the past 12 months - Comments

My Kindergartner will need summer care next summer as well.

I am concerned about a grandchild in Kindergarten. His mother works retail & cannot get him in after school care. I fear he is being left alone after school.

12:30-4:30

9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m

School year - no child care needed during summer or during times when school is out

husband works nights/I work days-would like care for about 2-3 hours per day-have not found a daycare willing to do part-time daycare w/o ft cost

Back-up care to me means daycare for my kindergartner on "no-school days"

Only 3 days/week.

My husband misses valuable overtime pay due to restricted hours of daycare center. Very problematic!

With teacher's schedules demanding work until 8:45 pm some evenings for Back to School night or conferences, we need more flexible hours options.

home setting or center that can transport to preschool program and offer after school care with discounted rates to reflect less time they're there

Would love to go back to overnight shift if that kind of childcare was available

Part time opposite of preschool

24-26 hours per week

We will need affordable childcare for an infant beginning in January on Monday through Thursday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.

when in school only need part time after school care during summer need full time daycare.

Youth Commission after school.

Quality care facilities that accept foster children, ususally last minute and sometimes leave without notice.

i work 2 or 3 days a week, so i need care full days (8:00 - 5:00) but only 2 or 3 days a week.

I already have care for my 2 children. Hopefully that does not change!

sometimes as early as 5 in the AM to as late as 8 in the PM

Not to mention days there is no school and sick days would be EXCELLENT but nobody offers those. With 3 kids you miss lots of work due to illness.

MY USUAL HOURS FOR DAYCARE ARE 8-5:30

flexible day care hours to meet needs, varying from 6 am to 7 pm on different days. Usually 9 hours per day.

6:30 AM UNTIL 6:00 PM

when I am stuck late at work and can not get to daycare before 5:30 to pick up child

work every fourth weekend. usually family watches the kids then.

It is very difficult to find a daycare that will take your child based on the hours that you need them rather than wanting to be paid for a full week.

My son uses Summer care and days off from School as well as after school, my daughter 3-4 days per week when I work

I work every other week, Monday-Friday, 8-4:30pm.

Mondays, Tuesdays-all day, and Thursday afternoons

I pay for full time daycare, but I work three 12 hour shifts per week. I usually only use my daycare 3 out of the 5 days.

care needed for one weekend per month

I will be using full day care starting in January. I will be having a baby in October.

Need more care options for school aged children. Step-son here in the summer and Youth Comm. has REALLY helped us out. Continue FYC for school yr too

2-10:30

0700-1900

I need part time day care, 2-3 days per week rotating different days and sometimes different times.

part time in the summer-afternoons only

husband works shift work so schedule changes frequently

Affordable care. ND hardly helps with costs. Im a single mother and you might as well not work. I make to much. What a joke. They have no clue.

32h/wk

2pm-11:30pm

We have not had our kids in daycare 5 days a week but the days we do need care they are there from 7:30-5:30

I work from 3-1130 pm and my husband works 7-530 so we have childcare from 2-530 on days I work.

3pm to 11:30pm

7am to 3:30pm on weekends

backup/emergency care for 11:30pm to 7:30 am

7am-4 or 5pm

3 (12hour shifts) 0700-1930

Sometimes school days out care.

6:45am to 7:30 pm

Ideal to have a daycare that opens at 6:30am.

Day(0630-2000) and evening shifts(1430-1930) and occasionally need Saturday care during the day.

1 1/2 days a week

I could possibly work 24/7..thank goodness my husband has a 9-5 job, but I have many problems when he is out of town.

My schedule varies from 2-4 days per week.

8am to 6 pm

I work 12 hour days or nights including weekends

12 hour day shifts from 7am-7:30PM

6:30 am to 7:45p.m.

have not needed childcare yet, am currently expecting my first child

My husband has to be to work at 7am and I work nights. Three days a week always different days but only parttime would be needed.

We work 12 hour shifts year round.

Work only 3 days/week

Work every third weekend

Some evenings and weekends

work 1200-2400, 3x week

3-1130

Sometimes needed someone until 9pm at night

everyother from 6-330

2pm-8pm

32 hours per pay period.

Childcare needed anywhere from 6:30am to 7:00pm

I work full time night shift(1900-0700) so I only need part-time daycare. My husband takes care of the kids at night.

We are lucky enough to have the children's two grandmother living in close proximity that provide for our childcare needs. I also work weekend status.

I work nights, but need child care during the day when I sleep. Part time help is hard to get.

**10. Considering the child in your family who uses care the most, how many hours per week do you use/need child care for that child? - Other responses**

during the summer ==50 hr/wk

After school care during the school year, all day care during the summer. Occasional use of drop-in care. Own my own business so sporadic hours i use babysitters.

Evenings

None. My wife stays at home with the kids. However, due to economic climate she expects to return to the workforce.

Our day care needs are for the summer, and during school breaks only.

5-11pm

Depends on if it summer or not

will be using 41-50 hours per week

20 hours in the summer only

thats during year not summer/summer is 81-90

school out days, summer before school

summer 35 - 40

I need care for next summer

50 hours for summertime

SUMmer care 40 hours per week.

school year 4hr/wk, summer 50hr/wk

depends on what season and hours worked

**11. Please tell us how care is/was provided for your children while you work. Check all that apply. - Other responses**

N/A - no child care used to date

non-relative home

Stayed at home with father

Friend-Stay at home mom

Licensed Home Daycare

A friend we have in town who is a stay-at-home mother

Montessori School

Daycare swap in each others homes every other day

no care used yet

Licensed Home Daycare

No children at this time, coming soon!

friend in her home

Dakota Montessori School

Montessori School, The Academy for Children

have not used yet

Licensed child care center is what we had lined up but it is closing now.

Summer Youth Commission

not due until may

MeritCare Daycare

no child yet

husband

Either parent at home.

**14. For F-M area respondents, please rank your preference for the location of your child care program. - Comments**

Mapleton,ND  
My daughter attends Harwood Elementary and uses the YMCA after school program there.  
Dilworth  
Far North Fargo.  
Dilworth or Glyndon would be ideal!  
Only want North Fargo  
Possibility of HORACE for childcare would rank after #5 thus shifting all of my previously numbered selections  
Does not matter for quality daycare  
South Moorhead is 1st choice  
Jefferson elementary area  
Work in Fargo -- but do not live in Fargo or Moorhead  
Dilworth  
We live in South Fargo, but I work in North Fargo.  
We live in Eagle Run (S on County 17)  
In home care  
North of 19th Avenue in Fargo.  
none - required field  
Arthur/Casselton area  
DGF school district  
Really top 3 are most important - I wouldn't look beyond that due to location to home/work.  
I would only consider daycare that is location convenient. So the only valid data is that I am interested in West Fargo daycare.  
Horace  
West Fargo is my preference.  
Moorhead is really the only option I want  
@ Microsoft  
Sabin  
Dilworth  
Argusville  
58042  
North Fargo is severely lacking in childcare options, specifically "centers." It is very difficult to find availability in the centers that are there  
As our home is near InnoVis Hospital, a childcare provider in this area would be best.  
Need more care in south mhd  
Live in mapleton  
Would be nice to have a daycare at work.  
Barnesville  
more options in north fargo, trollwood area  
MeritCare Child Development Center - would be extremely beneficial to reinstate their summer program & holiday care for school age children!!!  
Harwood would be possible option for us as we live there but work in Fargo  
Sabin  
Live in small town ~10 miles west of Fargo.  
we live past 32nd on university and i work downtown so other areas would be completely out of the way  
I live by downtown Moorhead and work in downtown Fargo--there are SO few options closeby.  
Dilworth  
outside FM area  
downtown area would be ideal (1st Ave S to 7th Ave N, east of University)  
1 - Horace  
Dilworth

#2 choice - Horace (is close to Eagle Run)  
Meritcare child care is really hard to get into. My child has been on the "waiting list" for close to 2 years.  
What a joke!  
HARWOOD, ND  
In my place of employment.  
at child's school  
Dilworth  
Hawley area - or along MN Highway 10  
Sabin  
Dilworth/ Glyndon  
location closest to my work I take my children to an employer daycare Meritcare Health system has two campuses would be nice to have daycare at both  
My daycare is N.F. because that is where I used to live. I now live in W.F. but we still take him up N. because he is loved and well-taken care of.  
My kids go to school in North Fargo but we live in West Fargo. During the school I need North Fargo. In the summer I would like West Fargo.  
This fall, our son attend kindergarten in N Mhd. We live N of Mhd but work in N Fargo & S Central Fargo. He'll need an after school care/program.  
Need more options north of Main Ave. Fargo, or directly across river in North Moorhead  
Casselton-where we live  
More openings at Meritcare Employee Daycare Center  
I work in Fargo live in Hillsboro  
Dilworth, MN  
Would be nice to have a spot for out of towners to drop their children. Center could be for people living in Mapleton, Casselton & Kindred..etc  
at the schools themselves  
In the Island Park area  
Horace  
School bussing program has strict boundaries of where they will bus the children.  
Near Southpointe or Island Park  
I live in Casselton and would prefer my kids where in daycare there.  
I use MeritCare Child Development Center since I am an employee but they do not have before/after school program.  
I would like to see Meritcare open a daycare on the southside campus.  
Horace  
DILWORTH  
Dilworth  
Due to where I live and work (South, North respectively)  
I'VE ONLY CONSIDERED DAYCARE IN SOUTH MOORHEAD BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE I LIVE.  
Dilworth  
I LIVE ON 58TH AVE S AND THERE IS NO CENTERS OUT THERE THAT TAKE YOUNGER CHILDREN.  
MeritCare daycare  
MeritCare (my employer) would be my 1st choice, but they need to expand services to meet the needs of their employees--you CAN'T get your kids in!  
Happy at the Meritcare Child Development Center Perfect location for working at Mericare North Campus

**19. What do you do in situations in which your child care arrangements fall through? Please mark all that apply. - Other responses**

family member

doesn't happen.

husband is busy

Work From home

work from home

No children at this time, coming soon!

Brought to Grandparents

Missed a day of work

Declined offer to work

Never do fall through we go to a center

no child yet

once child is born me or a family member will stay home

called grandma

my center is always open

Never fall through - licensed center with multiple teachers

My child care center is ALWAYS open and reliable (unless a blizzard)

It has never happened.

no child at this time

send them to grandparents or have grandparents come to our house

didn't go to work

stayed up to take care of children after working a night shift

**24. When absent from work to handle child care situations, which types of leave did you take? - Other responses**

Use leave as applies for the situation

I make the time up

I can work from home.

doesn't happen

did not need to.

No children at this time, coming soon!

No issues.

unpaid

This response is for when my child has been sick, not due to the provider

emergency leave

Emergency Leave

emergency leave

emergency

emergency

emergency

emergency

emergency leave

Emergency Leave (Sick Child)

Emergency

emergency

emergency

emergency

Emergency leave (only 3 per year available)

Emergency leave

emergency

Emergency Leave

Emergency leave

Emergency Paid

emergency

emergency leave

emergency leave

Emergency

emergency

Emergency days- paid

emergency

no child yet

Unplanned PTO, goes against you

I don't have child care problems - except if child is sick, but that's different

only for child illness have I missed work - not for child care reasons

If I would have to leave it would be sick pay

UNPLANNED PTO

UPTO

UPTO UNPLANNED TIME OFF

upto

Unplanned Vacation time

**25. Check any issues that have been a problem for you during the past year: (Check all that apply) - Other responses**

caregiver time off due to vacation or ill  
Finding care for only the School Year-- no summers needed  
Caregiver Vacation  
location-drive was getting too long  
quality in home daycare  
finding the same provider for 4 children  
the cost of childcare  
provider vacation/time off  
Child coming soon.  
The cost of daycare.  
scheduling, transportation  
finding before school care that opened really early  
Finding days off from school for school age child  
cost of quality child care  
Find 3 openings w/ high quality care  
Caregiver taking days off  
weekend evening availability  
our center just closed and now we are stuck trying to find care for infant again  
Finding part time daycare  
paying for fulltime--only need parttime  
Affordable care  
Backup for daycare's vacation time  
Finding childcare closer to home  
finding childcare with flexible scheduling  
Finding childcare when daycare provider is on vacation  
Finding care for days provided is closed due to vacation.  
care provider at funerals  
Cost of childcare  
illness of caregiver's kids at home  
Home issues with the provider.  
caregiver's children ill

## 26. Which of the following options would be helpful for you: - Comments

Funding to increase the size of MeritCare's daycare(not my current daycare due to lack of room at daycare).

I do feel my provider is a good one, but there is a lot of turnover in the teachers working there, probably due to low pay.

Star ratings ... YES!!!

In a perfect world, our young children would receive quality child care with funding from our state and federal gov.

I would like to see a quality daycare system through the Fargo Public School high standards.

I wish FYC could attract better workers

Allowed to use sick or emergency leave when daycare provider is sick or unable to care for children. there should be a yearly evaluation

A star rating may not be necessary if parents just interview the caregiver and watch the setting before committing.

My employer already offers flex time and the option to use sick leave if my child is sick. I think the start rating system is a GREAT idea

I have used sick time to care for sick kids & been able to flex time to pick up my children from daycare & arrive late to work when needed.

More infant openings would be helpful. I want to have more children and not having alot of options for good infant daycare is a major concern.

To have more day care providers who know sign lanuage and more knowledge to care for a special needs

Someplace to take my child when they are mildly ill (pinkeye, etc.)

I feel like I am taking only option when it comes to care. Being that there aren't many openings, you take what you can get.

It would be great if my company, which is rather large, could provide on site child care free of charge or with reasonable pricing.

My work has been great regarding my child and have been very flexible.

I currently have wonderful childcare and found them just by chance. We moved from out of town. A rating system would have been very helpful then.

School age care for summers and days off

we are lucky to be at the y downtown - absolutely no complaints! it is all wonderful!!

Honestly, my employer has a childcare center, but it's too expensive and the waiting list is like a year.

Expanded on-site childcare would be best.

Childcare is very important. You need to have someone you trust to take care of your pride and joy. You can't just trust anyone with your children.

Most want regular attendees and are unable to take multiple children of per diem staff who fill in for unplanned or vacation needs of other staff.

The rating system would be extremely helpful; theres no way to know the quality of care except by word of mouth. tough if move here from out of town

More daycares that take part time children without charging full time rates

Very pleased with current child care- we have had the same provider for eleven years. She is wonderful.

My center is good, but the teaching is lacking and quality of teachers isn't there - use lots of high school students with high turn over rate

HAving flex time without paying for time not used (i.e., not having to pay for full-time care for the flexibility.

To have a sick room for mildly ill kids.

a facility for mildly ill children.

**OPENING A HOSPITAL DAY CARE THAT CARES FOR ILL CHILDREN**

it's sad that child care centers can't make ends meet do to rising cost. I wish there were programs set up to help them.

having some sort of drop-in child daycare for sick kids. So parents can still go to work but trust that they're children are being well taken care of

More funding helps all child care in the area hire good quality workers. I LOVE my childcare workers and center, but some centers out there need help.

I'm frustrated that the summer care at MC has been eliminated and am concerned about what we will do for summer care when my sons are in school

Summer care for school aged child has been cut by child care center. Would be greatly helpful to have my children at the same child care facility.

MeritCare needs to have more options for employees. I know many people who have been on a waiting list for over a year and have never been called.

cost is so expensive

My day care does a good job at training but more is always helpful. I would like to see better ratios (staff to children - 1:3).

Federal funding for child care is an excellent idea because quality child care is very expensive. It can be very hard for families to afford good care.

daycare available for mildly ill children unable to attend regular daycare.

Information in regards to summer childcare options for children greater than 7.

Criminal background checks for all daycare providers--mandatory, not elective.

Currently have this, it's very nice.

I have moved my child to a center now due to lack of issues with a home daycare.

Cost of daycare can be very expensive

MeritCare Child Development Center is wonderful! I have never had issues there, but I know they could use more space.

I think if centers were able to pay workers more without increasing cost to families we would have much more quality child care.

## 27. What additional comments do you have about finding or using child care? - Responses

Finding quality infant childcare is difficult; but I do understand the ratio for child to caregiver. It is also difficult to find transportation b/a school. A delima that is challenging alot of MC employees is that the hosp. is going to all 12hr shifts in most departments, and it is very hard to find care to accomodate those hours.

paying for only the time the child is in daycare

It's very frightening to find new daycare, not knowing 100% who you could be leaving your precious children

...  
I live in S. Fargo and work in N. Fargo for work. I currently take my son to S. Moorhead to a home daycare that I feel comfortable with. When looking for infant care, I was unable to find many providers. I was hoping to get into MeritCare but this was not possible due to lack of openings at daycare.

I have been very fortunate to find a quality child care center for my son that has taken care of him from 12 weeks on - he is now 4 years old. The center is large enough to handle employee absences without

more resources available for parents looking to find a new provider, especially home day care providers -- references, background checks, agency checks, licensing issues

We have been very fortunate to have a great daycare. We have been with this daycare for 4 1/2 years now and even though they are out of the way, it's worth it.

It would be nice if daycare centers had a "sick room" for mildly ill children who are just running a temperature and are NOT throwing up and/or do NOT have diarrhea.

I strongly believe that legislation needs to be passed to provide funding for child care facilities. I also feel as though child care teachers need to be paid more to help retain quality staff.

We would like to send our 3 year old to preschool. The issue is finding transportation to/from preschool and daycare. I'd like to know more about opportunities for pre-school and daycare combinations

The YMCA downtown has fabulous staff and programs - I have been very happy with the services we have recieved for the last 5 years!

I would like a better way to find affordable, yet teacher-friendly options. I would also like a way to know good from mediocre settings.

none

It would be nice if our school district had a child care program for our employees kids. I know other school districts around the country have child care for school districts employees. This would help in having a program, central location, not having to pay daycare costs in the summer when we are not employed.

I would really like to find home daycares that provide Christian values - prayer before meals, teaching morals, singing songs, bible stories, etc.

We need more part time child care in Fargo! I could only find one place that would allow me to be part time, and not have to pay full time. Support moms who want to stay home with their children a few hours a day!

Finding quality infant care was the most difficult. Most centers had a long waiting list and home care environments did not meet the standards I wanted for my child.

At one time we had three children under the age of 2 who needed daycare. We were taking our kids to two different day cares each day. the workers are not paid enough and find other reasonable employment to make ends meet. Day cares struggle to retain the best workers either because they can't afford to pay them or they themselves profit.

Hard to find infant child care.

My children had a daycare provider in North Fargo last year and she had WAY too many kids. Her husband and son were there so she could count them as adults, even though they didn't interact with the kids. The children weren't cared for. Many times when I went to pick up my child, she didn't know if he was inside or outside. She rarely talked to them

It is difficult to find reliable care that is safe for children with special needs. Our son is developmentally delayed, appearance is like any other child, no behaviors or meds, however when attempting to find a home setting was unable to find one that would take special needs. We are concerned about his safety, and lack options available to us.

We need more GOOD home day cares. GOOD ones. Kids need to be "home."

I'm just starting the search process and most has been through word of mouth. My child is due in April, and it's intimidating that - even starting this early - I might have difficulty finding a dependable, affordable care

Good child care is EXPENSIVE!!

Child Resource/Referral was a great help with one exception. The site was often not up to date. I called various providers with openings listed on the website. Upon calling I was told the provider was full.

Follow through with guidelines and licensing requirements; be held accountable by state for non compliance. Lack of training for providers and poor pay; however rates continue to increase for the consumer. More frequent checks to ensure proper procedures, ratios, etc. are being followed.

I have a wonderful child care provider who has taken care of our child since she was in pre-school. She will soon be outgrowing the center and is not comfortable with going home to an empty house. I will need to locate a new provider. Transportation to and from school is an issue.

We have used 2 homes and 2 centers over the years. We need to have a variety of places for parents to choose from. We need providers to have low ratios and a clean, stimulating environment. We need to trust that our children have the best care...while parents are at work.

I am very concerned about finding a place to send my child to Preschool in a couple of years. I love having my child attend a home daycare, but I will have to somehow provide transportation for my preschooler to and from daycare to attend preschool.

We have exclusively used centers for many years, due to the fact that we feel more comfortable with more than 1 adult watching the children. Also, we do not have to worry about the daycare closing due to the employee being ill since there are more than one. The only reason we miss work is because our own

none at this time

Why is it so impossible to find infant spots? It would be nice to see more options in part-time daycare for my son (2.5 yrs). My goal: put him in a daycare center 1-2 days a week for more socialization & curriculum; stay with current in-home provider the rest of the week.

love to see childcare federally subsidized so is affordable to all families to work Over \$1000 a month is a huge financial commitment and hinders me from being able to have more children. Childcare workers need respectful pay. The turn over rate is very hard on children and parents cant continue to absorb rising costs for centers.

The last time I had to look for child care was 6 years ago when my oldest was a baby. It was difficult finding a spot for an infant, and it sounds like it still is. I feel for anyone who has to try and place an infant.

We are extremely happy with Small Wonders. We have been with them for 5 years-our only caregiver. It was hard to find one initially - pretty much called daycares as the first people we told about being pregnant. We had 5 months leeway before having the first baby and I was home for 3 months, so 8 months of cushion of being on a waiting list.

It has been extremely difficult to find quality childcare for our infant daughter. Our first daycare provider was great but after 4 months she moved due to her husband's job. The quality at our next provider was not as good so we continued to look and just recently found another great in-home licensed provider but that took 3 months to find!

very disappointed to hear that Nokomis is planning to abandon the core of Fargo by closing it's two centers to open up a mega-center in SW Fargo to recruit more 'full-retail' clients.

Difficult for new parents to find daycare providers for infants. Not to mention quality of daycare for infants.

Would be nice for new moms to be given a list if wanted.

na

We have a great day care, and I feel fortunate

I cannot believe how difficult it is to find quality infant care in a town the size of Fargo. I got on waiting lists one full year before I needed care and still didn't get into centers that I wanted. I have 3 kids at 3 different

My daycare is locationally convenient but I don't think it is the best care. I wouldn't recommend my center to someone else. But it is fine. I imagine many families are in the same boat. The quality of the employees that a daycare is hiring is not good. It is a difficult business to be successful in while tailoring to average income families.

a

Before and after care for school agers is alarmingly high in cost at least where we are

We've had a HUGE issue this past year because we had our third child and we only require part-time care for them. No one is willing to take a part-time infant - therefore we've been forced to look elsewhere.

I will need child care for an infant starting July/August '09; at that time I'm considering sending our daughter (who will then be 3) to preschool. We don't want to take them to 2 separate places, but also don't want either of them to go to a large center-style daycare (we prefer in-home). But that seems to be the only option we are left with.

I wish daycare centers would cater to different classes. I would gladly pay extra for high quality care that segregates my kids from those that cause lots of problems.

Finding infant child care has proven especially difficult. We need someone in February and so far no one can tell us if they'll have openings then or not. This has been a very frustrating experience.

Its hard to find a child care provider that fits your needs, and Centers are good but their sick policies are too stringent. We will need to switch once my child is in Kindergarten and I don't know where to start or when to start looking, there needs to be an easier way to get information. I have used Child Care Resource but it could be easier.

Finding childcare is especially difficult if you prefer a center-type environment. When we initaly were looking for childare my son was 2 1/2 and we had a very difficult time getting into an existing center. Lucky for us, a new one opened which we love.

Not enough openings in the FM area. Leaves parents with little choice if any if there is an opening. May not be able to get into a facility that is your 1st, 2nd, or even 3rd choice.

We have been richly blessed with a wonderful in-home daycare provider that all of our children have enjoyed. I know this is rare so I feel very fortunate.

I have been dissappointed with the employee turnover at our current center, specifically in the toddler (15 months - 3 years) room, I would like to see our center receive help in finding qualified candidates.

Finding a good, quality daycare provider is really hard. Especially if you do not want a large center. There are issues with trust and what rules they must abide by. What are my rights and how can I exercise them. What kind of contract should I or should I not be signing?

There are not enough good infant child care centers in this area. Because of this, all the good centers have waiting lists of 1 year. This is concerning for me as I want to have more children.

Finding newborn childcare is always so difficult. I'm lucky that I am over that stage!

When our children were young, the waiting lists were extremely long at centers. Then came the years when we had two separate daycares because every daycare can't go to every school...THAT REALLY STUNK by the way. We are now at YMCA West and they are FABULOUS, but if we didn't have good career level jobs, it would be REALLY hard to afford.

we have had no issues with our provider

The cost of childcare is so high we have to find a home childcare that is cheeper than most and then our child misses out on some preschool things, and the care is not not bad but we are not %100 happy or comfortable with the care she receives.

It is an overwhelming process to try to find a new daycare especially for more than one child. It would be nice to have a standardized listing of the services offered. For example providing transportation to and from

I have a daughter who has Type 1 Diabetes and it is difficult to know how child care centers or or providers will assist in managing her needs.

I use part time childcare which is very difficult to find as providers are able to fill with full time and are hesitant to fill with part time.

It is extremely hard to find daycare for infants at this time.

The providers need to be more accoutable. My child was enrolled in Sara's Little Angels, when it closed unexpectatly. We had one afternoon to find childcare. We didn't have the option to be picky, there was an opening at a location, and we took it because we had no other options. I like the idea of star rating.

It is frustrating to find a provider who will agree to take on our unborn child this far in advance. As we don't need the care until early January, many of the providers we've looked into tell us to "call back closer to the time". It is frightening to think how difficult this process is.

The cost of daycare in this area is quite expensive, and doesn't seem to be in proportion to the average wage in the area.

Thank Goodness for FYC! My family has also struggled when our children were younger to find care. This is a terrible issue.

Chikdcare is very exspensive and wish it would be more realistic.

increasing costs

We use Meritcare Daycare and we are happy there. I would love to see their program rewarded or expanded to meet the needs of their employees. Demand exceeds room for these kids. They are the only daycare center that has flexible scheduling options for part time families. Families need quality care options

none

HAVING 2 CHILDREN IN DAYCARE IS COSTLY AND BARELY PAYS TO WORK. NOT ENOUGH DAYCARES IN WEST FARGO AREA.

The childcare issues in the FM Area are very alarming. I feel secure in that my daycare is a safe and caring plac. I am very leary of contracts which require 2 weeks pay prior to care and then they bail on these poor families and leave them in a bind. Completely unethical!

Finding high quality child care is very difficult, which is mind boggling to me in a city the size of Fargo-Moorhead. Retaining quality teachers is also an issue in the daycare realm. Developing a roundtable discussion group, involving the grass roots workers, as well as parents for ideas and solutions may help. It;s hard to find someone who does not have either 15 infants already. or they dont work with my hours cause i work early hours.

did apply for headstart but was on waiting list for 2 yrs & would still be if we hadn't removed our name from the list. very happy with the y & their scholarship program. unfortunately, we no longer qualify for child care assistance through cass county. wish they would allow me to pay for med insurance so we could receive the cc assistance instead

For finding childcare, it would be great to have the CC R&R search function have a mapping feature so you can see at a glance who's on the way between home and work. Some of us don't drive all of the time (I'm trying to walk and bike more, since I live less than a mile from work.)

Having resources that can take children to the child care from the schools is important as parents can't leave work, schools don't support letting students take different buses to child care and the child care facilities don't pick up children after school.

We are so blessed that our children go to the MeritCare Child Development Center.

The daycare that my youngest child is at has cut their days off from school program which puts me in a bind when there is no school. I have currently enrolled my older child in the Y program but now I am running to two different places when there is no school.

It was very difficult to find infant care in the F/M area. Quite stressful. I am still on the waiting list at MeritCare and my child is 6mo old! Rae Moore, the dir of the center at doesn't return calls in a timely fashion or have an orangized way of keeping her waiting list. Always took days to get back to me on my status or never got back to me.

there seems to be a severe shortage of QUALITY child care, especially for infants. i could not find quality care outside and had to hire a babysitter to come into my home. to ensure quality care, parents must pay very high costs.

Infant care is very difficult to find.

More daycares that take part time children without charging full time rates

Glad to be at the point we are because it sounds like it has become quite a challenge to find reliable child

none, just wanted to note that the 1 child between 6 weeks and 12 months is not here yet...due in March of

Hard to find quality care givers that I can afford but refuse to compromise safety and good provider retention is a problem due to lack of insurance and low wages - compared to the amount I shell out each week it barely makes me working worth while - need to bring home something on the paycheck.

We have had experiences at a daycare center (A Childs World) for almost 9 years and at home daycares for 2 years, and I have to say the quality of care/education at our center is top notch compared to the home daycares we were at. We need to do more to help fund some of these programs/centers, to keep them going strong.

Not enough child care centers that provide part-time child care( or flex time for child care)

If a concern is reported, I feel it should be investigated immediately rather than let time lapse.

Meritcare needs to expand its childcare program to a South Fargo site to include all the employees that work at the MCSU sites & south Fargo clinics. Also would LOVE to have a sick child care program for mildly ill children - fevers, colds, etc that don't require hospitalization/doctor visit but not well enough to attend day

I am concerned about the quality of care these big centers offer. My child was at a center and at one point when I came to pick him up they had no clue where he was and on the last day he was there he was badly injured where he needed immediate medical attention that required surgery!!!! I would never ever put a child in a center again.

EVENTUALLY, MY SPOUSE AND I WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO OUR FAMILY. WE WOULD LIKE OUR SECOND CHILD TO BE IN THE SAME DAYCARE AS OUR FIRST. LAST YEAR I CALLED OVER 100 DAYCARES AND FOUND ABOUT 6 THAT WOULD TAKE AN INFANT. SOME OF THOSE 6 WE WOULD HAVE HAD TO WAIT ABOUT ANOTHER MONTH OR TWO BEFORE THEY COULD TAKE OUR SON.

My job requires some flexible scheduling, which worries me about finding a reliable daycare provider that can take a child early in the morning or going later into the evening should I have to stay late.

I also do Foster care, so it is very important to me to be able to get children in at my current center. My center is awesome. I don't know what I would do if I did not have the flexibility they give me.

with daycares closing and so many infants being born, it is difficult to find individuals with openings that are available and an appropriate fit for my family

Care for mildly ill children and Care for children while daycare is closed for vacation/staff development days are probably 99% of my concerns. It would be terrific if my employer (MeritCare) would provide an that there is a place that you can log onto to check on daycare providers as a background that other left by other parents and that rates them by credentials

Child care is very much needed in this area,especially for infants. We need help from the state to keep good quality centers and in home day cares open. It is almost impossible to find daycare for infants.

Quality of care is very important because our children are so precious.

I am approaching a time with my son entering kindergarten next year that I am concerned with finding summer/school day off care.

If for some reason your current daycare becomes unavailable it is almost impossible to find daycare for a child under 2 and very difficult for 2-3 year olds also. In my past experiences over the last 10 years it has become more difficult with each of my children to find care. It takes a long time to find one that is a good fit.

Very Difficult to find quality convenient care for infants.

It would be nice to have a smaller teacher to child ratio so that children can get more individual attention.

Have had a great amount of frustration with the lack of access to the Meritcare Daycare. It would be very convenient to have a daycare close to work where my child could be dropped off rather than driving a long ways out of the way to drop her off. Also would allow greater flexibility in having to allow less time for travel--

I feel it is important to have childcare that is flexible with scheduling for part time employees. I work a variety of shifts and would value this service since our children attend our employers child care. It's bothersome to hear that our child care is being forced to eliminate certain programs(summer,after school program, etc) What's next?

There needs to be more extended-hour daycare. I'm lucky. I have a husband who works normal hours. It is very difficult for people who are single parents or those who have a spouse that travels alot for work.

I wish your site (ND & MN) could be inclusive of all child cares available. Other than licensure, a rating of some sort would really help parents out when finding a save, loving & quality daycare. In the past, I've contacted Social Services for any qu

I have been fortunate enough to find quality, loving, in-home licensed daycare providers. I believe that in-home services meet children's needs better than large centers.

## THEY DO NOT TAKE SICK CHILDREN

I LOVE that MeritCare offers childcare, I wish they would open another center on the south side also. The staff at the CDC are excellent and I know myself and all the parents VALUE them all SO much. It is nice to have a stable place to take my kids while I work.

I started looking for child care when I was 3 mo's pregnant. It was almost impossible to find a center that had opening for infants but we found one we loved. I am now 9 mo's pregnant a found out our center is now closing due to not enough funding. It's sad that centers can't make ends meet. Sadly it's expensive for everyone involved.

The teachers we've had at our center are great, for the most part, but the turnover is so high because they can get paid more outside the child care industry. It's so hard for the kids to adjust to new caregivers so

I am having a baby in the spring of 09 and I am really leary/concerned about finding adequate care for my newborn. With my first one, I was more ignorant to the way of the childcare world but this time around I am more nervous about it.

It is very hard to find infant childcare in Fargo, especially on the north side. I have twins and was VERY lucky our choice daycare had 2 infant positions.

Finding infant care is hard. Centers have wait lists of over/to a year and home care dont know until only mths b4 a baby is born. I was on the wait lists for 4 places to make sure I had quality care. Plus no one opens before 6:30am not everyone works at 9am -5pm. Opening early was my largest problem.

I changed daycare from Sara's Little Angels to Juniors Center in May and am very thankful I did that. The location is difficult but well worth it when I see the quality of care my children are now recieving.

do part time-hourly for people-we had to pay full time daycare for many years due to my husband needing medical treatment 3 days a week-the other 2 days, he was home, but we still go stuck paying full time care-people need part time daycare-like they youth commission does-but do it for the younger kids-birth to age 5-who are not in school yet.

It is very difficult to find childcare for infants in the F/M area if you are do not have other children already enrolled. I started look 6 months before i needed care and i was put on waiting list for 6 different centers. Only 1 center had room by the time i needed care. I also contacted several in home daycares and they were not taking new infants

I cannot consider placing my infant in a home where the caregiver cares for 12 children by herself. Quality cannot be

Would really like to find a place that isn't so expensive. I understand that childcare for a infant is expensive but with only having 1 child it gets to be a big expense over time. We have since taken our child out of daycare for numerous reasons. The top 2 were, money and quality of care.

none

none

In school and at daycare having staff understand children with ADHD that they cant help themselves always. I think people whom deal with kids need to be educated.

My oldest child was fortunately admitted to the MeritCare Child Development Center when he was 7mo old.The questionable care he received at the previous daycare center made us realize what a great place the MC CDC is.When I left my previous position at MC after 7 years, I only looked for jobs within MC so my children could stay at the center.

The first year after my oldest was born we had 4 providers. The first was unlicensed and had WAY to many kids per caregiver ratio to be legal or safe. Then she I had a friend watch her until she hurt her back. The 3rd one retired after 2 months of having her and now we have stuck with the 4th. It was VERY stressful finding good infant care.

a program that is for the middle school age child but has special needs so not able to be left alone

we were lucky to find the most awesome home daycare flexible reasonable rates

The best lucky I have with child care has been through the YMCA Childcare program.

I have had my kids in daycare on and off (flexible schedule) for 10 1/2 years. Since my kids were school age, they have attended MeritCare Daycare. No MeritCare no longer offers the school age summer

It would be nice if MeritCare opened another childcare center in the South Fargo area. MeritCare has a lot of employees and the North Fargo location is in an inconvenient location, not to mention that there is a big waiting list to get in. It's very discouraging. My husband and I only need part time childcare.

I go to school and work 3-11:30. I don't use child care 5 days a week and it is extremely costly for me to use part-time care. It is too bad that when you need part-time care you feel like you are being penalized

For me, it's the experience of the providers that make this a positive experience. Some of the centers that I have heard having problems are new beautiful centers, however, none of that matters unless you have the qualified staff needed to run the center.

I was very fortunate to have MeritCare Child development center for the past 9 years for my children. I now wish they would continue to provide summer care, because that is where I will be lacking for quality care for my school-age daughter that can't stay home yet. I wish FYC had a north Campus like the 2 campuses on the south side.

It was very difficult with my first child and I thought I was going to have to stay home instead of working. It is horrible trying to find care for infants!

The F-M area has extremely limited to no options for the care of special needs children. No body wants to provide care for my special needs son with moderate mental retardation. He has Down Syndrome and thus has difficulty keeping up/transiting quickly enough with the other children. Past providers tell me "he takes too much of their time."

Even if you call a child care center the second you find out you are pregnant to be put on the waiting list, you still don't make it to the top of the waiting list after being pregnant for 9 months AND taking a 12 week maternity leave! That's whole year.

Need weekend care for both parents working.

Good child care is hard to find and is very expensive.

Trying to find childcare for an infant with the hours I work was hard. And being that the center is so far from my work place and home.

Both of my children use Dakota Montessori (1 year old and 4 year old), and I have never had a problem. We know in advance if the center is to be closed because of teacher workshops, and they are very good about contacting us if our children are sick or if there are any other problems regarding our child (if they are unusually sad, etc). Excellent!

After a long search we found a lovely woman to care for our son, but have had some work related issues during her time off or sick days.

I have interviewed many places, and a lot of them are not fit for one child. The places that I like have expectations that are hard to meet. I have also found that many people shy away from kids with medical issues. My daughter has seizures, and finding someone to watch her is nearly impossible. It is also hard to find openings for young kids.

Fargo has a need for quality daycare, with educated staff and educational programs. There are great centers that exist, but many require full time enrollment. A need exists for more part time options, and I realize it is hard for a center to operate at a profit if they do not have full time enrollment.

Flexible spending accounts should not have a limit for childcare expenditures. The \$5000 maximum does not even cover one of my children's daycare costs in a year, and I have 3 children.

I originally needed daycare from 2:30p-7p but ended up switching jobs to accommodate my child so that I do not depend on daycare now. When originally searching for daycare, I ran into many rude daycare providers who led me to believe I was somewhat crazy to think I would find daycare for those hours of the day.

My daycare is supposedly on the food program. Why do I have to supply formula for my infant? I have friends that have their provider provide formula using the food program? Is my daycare Here We Grow screwing me over?

I've used 4 providers in 3 years. All were home settings. Two decided to not do daycare anymore. Left one home daycare after child not doing well there.

Summer child care is an issue to find childcare and still allow your children to participate in summer activities due to transportation limitations.

We've been highly frustrated with the lack of care options for special needs children with autism. We were forced to hire a nanny because there is no center available with enough staff to attend to the higher level of attention these children need.

Home Daycare providers are not held accountable for closing early and other issues.

I have a great daycare (in-home) but not in my neighborhood. I leave at 7:30 and get to work at 8:15 - a 45 minute trip. I am more than willing to do this for quality childcare. I wish there were more quality options in our town.

My child goes to the Child development center..Absolutely love the Center..We hire someone for the weekends

none

Only need 2-3 days per week, which is impossible to find for a child < 2 without paying full time, which is not needed and very expensive.

I only need childcare from Tuesday-Friday (and this may change) but I have to pay full-time at the childcare center I use. I wish I could pay part-time for Meritcare's Daycare again, but I work and Live in South Fargo.

At times, when I've considered switching jobs, I have decided not to as a result of our childcare arrangements. Our childcare is affiliated with my work and if I don't work here, I can't use the ChildCare Center. I'm very concerned about not being able to find quality care elsewhere so I'll stay in this position so my kids can be in quality care.

I have excellent child care that fits with our hours-it just doesn't fit with our location. I wish there was more child care in the downtown area.

It is very hard to find good child care for under 2 years old. you are placed on waiting lists for infants when you already have a child in that centers care. very frustrating.

I am so thankful for MeritCare's Center providing high quality care for my children.

THE ONLY PROBLEM I EVER FACE WITH DAYCARE IS WHEN MY CHILDREN ARE SICK AND HAVE TO GO HOME. ALSO WHEN MY SECOND CHILD WAS BORN THERE WAS NO OPENINGS AT MY CURRENT DAYCARE AND WE HAD TO USE 2 DAYCARES FOR A YEAR UNTIL SHE WAS ABLE TO

I really think that licensed daycares should have more strict rules with getting their license. My daughter went to Sara's Little Angels and i was never truely happy with her care there but it was available so i just hoped they would take care of my little one. I really hope that she does not get approved for another

I have been informed that my before-school care at my child's school will ONLY be open on no school days if enough people sign up for it. This makes it uncertain that care will be available. Not sure what plan B will be if that is the case.

You never know what your getting into with a home daycare or center as I've had issues with both.

It's hard to find daycare past the hours of 6pm. My husband sometimes works until 7:30pm so our only option is to have a home daycare. I would like to see more centers open later.

There are very few places that are open early enough (before 7am) to allow me to drop my children off. Also, there are even less that are open late enough for me to work 12 hour shifts.

I have no problems with Meritcare Child Development Center. I have 2 children there now 32 hours a pay period and have been happy.

We were lucky enough to get into the Meritcare Childcare Center this September, but me being a nurse working all different hours and my husband working construction hour it was hard finding childcare at times.

I have only needed part-time daycare for my two children as I work the night shift(1900-0700). Finding part-time care has always been difficult. I only send one of my kids to daycare while the other one goes to preschool. I go without sleep some days.

Trust is a big issue and seeing/ reading about all the issues with being left high and dry without care and people opening centers with criminal histories makes me happy I can work out a schedule with my husband. We currently have no daycare. Thank god!

It is very difficult to find childcare openings. The ones you do find have openings for a reason and that reason is they do not have the quality you desire so you are left making a decision to send your child somewhere you are not comfortable with because it is all that is available.

Hard to locate a home daycare close to where we live.

Although I know this is a difficult problem for many families, and I know I am one of the lucky ones, I am opposed to using our tax dollars to fund daycare. Children are the parents responsibility.

Very long wait to find childcare for infants

It is very difficult for those of us (I work in healthcare) who need only part time, but variable days to find daycare. Many people pay full time but only require part time due to the variations in their shifts of hours worked during the week- weekend care is also difficult to find.