

Good evening. My name is Mary Ann Baker. I am the owner of three local child care centers. I have NBCCC in St. J which I have owned and directed for the last 11 years. NBCCC Too in Danville which is a Montessori pre-school that has been open for the last 3 years and NBCCC III in Wells River which as of tomorrow will be open for 1 year. I have been doing childcare for over 25 years.

NBCCC in St. J opened with a license for 29 and has grown into a center that now has a license for 105 children. In St. J I employ 12 full time staff throughout the school year and that number of staff increases to an additional 6 full time employees throughout the summer. We also employ an additional 3 or 4 part time employees as well. We service approximately 75 children throughout the school year and are at full capacity of 105 during the summer. 91% of my clients are subsidized through the state. I care for these children the way I cared for my own 7 children that my husband and I raised. Good care takes time, skill and resources. All of which require a solid financial footing. It often requires staffing the center beyond the minimum standards set by the state.

We care for school age children and to me that means keeping them productively busy, exposing them to both recreation and academic support. Our programs includes breakfast, lunch and snack for these children daily. We also offer an enriched program in art, drama and physical activity. For the last 3 years we have performed a full junior version of a Disney play, which causes extra expenses but builds the quality of the care. All of this gives the children (and their families) an incredible sense of pride and a great supplement to the children's regular schooling. We want programs to have strong academic programming and an opportunity to experience activities they might not normally be able to.

We have had the privilege of hiring several different local art teachers throughout the years who have come in once a week and have done things with the children from individual drawings to group murals to silk screening scarves. Last year we took 40 children to the ropes course at LSC and provided them with team building skills, while challenging them physically throughout the program as well. The children that we serve often have exceptional needs for these experience because if they do not have the opportunity at child care they probably "will not have the opportunity" elsewhere.