

Testimony of Cassandra King, Springfield Vermont
House Human Services Committee
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I'm Cassandra King I am a mother of 3, two girls and one boy. When I was 16 living in Connecticut I had my first child, which lead to me dropping out of school and being a stay at home mother. As a stay at home mother, there was not any programs around that allowed me to attend school and have my child in daycare. At the age of 20 I then had my second child, This made life more difficult . I went from being a mother of 1 to now being a mother of 2. My life got very hectic quick. I was living with my father and children, I knew the life I was living in Connecticut would get the best of me if I didn't do something and do it fast. In July of 2011 I decided I needed to make the best of it and do what was best for my children. My father and I decided to move up to Vermont where my mother and step father lived. We lived in a camper on my mother's land. I quickly learned about the parent child center and how they allowed moms and pregnant women to come to school to get their diploma all while allowing their child/ren to attend daycare! I enrolled as fast as I could. **Within three weeks** I was attending school and my daughter was attending daycare downstairs while my son attended a different daycare. At the parent child center, not only was I working on my schooling, but I learned how there was so many other things they were able to help with. I then applied for my first very own apartment. **Within 6 months** of attending the parent child center, I had accomplished, an apartment, schooling and daycare! My life already seemed so much better off. I got to experience so many relationships and so much support. It was amazing! After what seemed so much shorter than 3 years, I graduated from the parent child center all while raising two children, and becoming pregnant with my 3. Right after graduating I got a job at a home day care, I worked there for 4months until I was put on bedrest with my 3rd child. Right after having the daughter, I saw an opening for a child care job here at the parent child center, I applied and I got it! My daughter was able to attend daycare while I worked. While working as a assistant teacher at the parent child center, I decided that a teacher was exactly what I wanted to become! I applied for college, began taking classes while working. I am now a co-teacher in the Aqua room downstairs, attending college for my Associates degree in Early Childhood education.