

Hi, my name is Kay Curtis. I have been a licensed home childcare provider for the last 14 years,

I have been a member and leader of Vermont Early Educators' United AFT for 5 years.

Year after year, we **hear** that there is a commitment from Montpelier for early care and education for children, for their families and for child care providers.

But there has only been one small increase of 3% in the base subsidy/child care payment rate in the last fifteen years.

Now, we hear that the Governor's budget level funds the subsidy/child care payment rate AGAIN!

Understand that level funding the child care payment rate hurts children, hurts working families and hurts providers. Level funding is in reality a cut.

Now, we have heard that when the funding runs out, families who newly qualify for childcare subsidy may be wait-listed.

It is bad enough that I have to tell the families I work for that Montpelier talks a lot about early care and education without any real commitment to funding it.

Can you imagine getting a minimum wage job and being told that you have to pay for childcare? Because that is what I will have to tell new families if the child care subsidy is level funded.

If we as a state truly care about our youngest citizens, working families and early care and education providers then we need more than lip service and press releases, we need a real commitment with real dollars attached from Montpelier.

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