

Theresa Utton-Jerman

Subject:

Child Care

My name is Arielle Strickland, a resident of Chester. I am a mother of a 20 month old little girl and I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. For the last 2 and half years, I have worked at Keene Perspectives and since my child's birth, my husband and I have struggled to find adequate care. Due to the medical necessity of my role as a behavior analyst, I need to provide consistent intervention to my clients who are young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This often means my husband has to take off of work from his job as an essential worker if our sitter is unavailable. While I was able to secure a sitter to watch my child during her first and second years, I knew that she needed an environment that was optimal for her development, allowing her to explore new places and people. Finding a child care program where my child could have more social stimulation and quality care was challenging. Not only were spots unavailable, but the one that was eventually available didn't work out after a few months and then we were back at square one. Families need more options for finding care that matches their child's needs and keeps parents in the workforce. I hope you will support Governor Scott's proposed investments in child care.