

Theresa Utton-Jerman

Subject: childcare needs in VT

My name is Alison Koonz and I am a ED nurse from Guilford. I am a single parent of a two and five year old. My children attend The Garland School, and I love its emphasis on imaginative play, nature and community. I also love it because I know my children are getting healthy snacks and meals made and served on-site.

The problem is I spend anywhere from 1/2 to 1/3 of my income on child care, even after assistance from CCFAP. It was challenging to find and pay for child care before the pandemic. I made just barely too much money to receive help and because nursing shifts are 12 hours long, I had to pay for traditional daytime childcare, and an afterhours babysitter in addition to relying on my parents and in-laws for help with pick-up and drop-off. Since the pandemic I can't rely on my parents and in-laws for help because they are vulnerable to COVID-19. I had to change jobs, decreasing work hours and taking a pay cut, so that I could afford and be available during non-child care hours, but still 1/3 of my income is going to child care.

I am asking you to support the Governor's proposed investments in child care so that families like mine can get the help we desperately need to get to work!

Thank you!
Alison Koonz