

Zeinab Bulle
Senate Health and Welfare testimony
Parent Child Centers
Family Room
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Hello, my name is Zeinab Bulle. I have been coming to the Family Room for over 5 years. I have attended playgroups, moms groups, baby massage, garden program and used the food pantry. The Family Room has been important to me and my family because we get to meet other people, have food together and my kids get to play with other kids. Baby massage was really helpful because there is so much going on with all of my kids it is nice to focus on my new baby and meet other parents going through the same.

Whenever I need something to help my family like food, diapers or whatever I need at the time. The staff are really respectful and care a lot about my kids. I never worry about coming to the Family Room and not fitting in or being judged by the color of my skin or being from a different country. The moms groups were really helpful to talk about the stresses of kids and money and everything else. I also like that the doctor is right above the Family Room. I can take my kids there to their appointments and it's easy and there are Family Room staff there helping with my kids and talking with me about my kids' health. It's easy to get to and I trust everyone.

My kids like the Family Room because they get to play and eat good food and we sing songs and there are important workshops that i get to attend to help me be a better parent. I have had 4 kids now go to different programs at the Family Room and even though life gets hard, I know I can go to the Family Room for support and get out of the house.

The Family Room is important to the community because I know a lot of people rely on the Family Room staff and what they offer. A lot of moms are going through a lot and the programs, especially the moms group, is good for them. I'm trying to get my husband to go to the dads groups.

If people didn't have the Family Room, I'm not sure where they would go for help. The Family Room means a lot to many people I know and raising kids is hard work so I really think people need a Family Room everywhere.