

# Celebrating Childcare Professionals: Nurturing the Future

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In the active landscape of economic development, the relationship between workforce and childcare is critical. This Economic Development Spotlight highlights the provision of quality childcare, not only as a necessity for working parents, but also as a method for nurturing a robust workforce. While more jobs are created in and around our community, there is a rise in the need for childcare for people heading to work. May 10th is Childcare Professionals Day. This day is dedicated to honoring individuals who play a crucial role in nurturing and shaping the future of children in our community. Childcare professionals provide essential support to working parents and ensure the well-being and development of our youngest citizens.

Limited options and inflated costs can create barriers for parents seeking reliable childcare solutions. Access to quality childcare services close to home can make a substantial difference in the lives of families. This directly impacts workforce participation and productivity by providing parents with the peace of mind and support they need to pursue their careers with confidence and focus.

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The Pickaway County branch of Job and Family Services plays a vital role in supporting childcare providers and ensuring the availability of certified professionals to meet the needs of local families. Through various certification programs and resources, Job and Family Services equips childcare professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to provide safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate care for children.

If you are interested in becoming a Licensed Childcare Provider in our community, Pickaway County Job and Family Services is ready to help you. To become an in-home provider there is an application process, licensing training, and a background check required. There are childcare workers available to help vet your home and are willing to help you to get approved for

childcare. There are funds available to help with incurred costs of preparing your home for childcare and support for healthy meal reimbursement.

As folks celebrate Childcare Professionals Day on May 10th, take a moment to express your gratitude to the dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to nurture and educate the youngest members of our community. If you are interested in more information about becoming a Licensed Childcare Provider in our community, please reach out to Kim Fincher ([kim.fincher@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:kim.fincher@jfs.ohio.gov), 740-571-8440) for more information. Interested individuals can also access previous and future articles from the Economic Development Spotlight series on The Herald's website or at [pickawayprogress.com/news](http://pickawayprogress.com/news).

**Lexi Heidish** is the Assistant Director of Pickaway Progress Partnership (P3) and the Pickaway County Port Authority. Much appreciated!