

Proposal to the Henderson County Board of Education

August 15, 2011

Rationale: Our child cares are struggling to meet expenses. We are required by law to staff with state maximum ratios. In our larger centers, we are able to keep those ratios pretty tight. In smaller centers, this is more difficult due to our inability to put very young children with much older children. For example, it is inappropriate to have 4 year olds in the same play group with 10 year olds as a regular practice.

Reasons for the strain:

- Our staff has been steadily encouraged over the last 4 years to attain their CDA certificate (Child Development Certificate) in early childhood from HCC. Most have done this which requires us to pay a higher wage; however, it improves the quality of care for the children.
- Numbers are slowly rising in the last 6 months due to an improving economy. Most child care workers work from 20-40 hours weekly. If we drop them under 20 hours because they have a low student count for the day, we are not fulfilling the employee contract.
- Our service is available from 6:15 am to 6:00 pm daily, including days school is not in session and summer. We are a full service operation which includes some field trips and other specialized events for children that incur some expense, but improve our care for children.

As of January 2011, rates for the full, daily care of a 3 year old or 4 year old (weekly) in our community are as follows:

Busy Bees	\$120
Pidder Patter	\$120
Just for Kids	\$110
Kids Time	\$100
Henderson County Schools (3 -4 year old program)	\$85 (\$75 for children in KERA preschool)

We are asking your consideration for changing the weekly charge from \$85 to \$110 for children in the 3-4 year old program when they attend a full day and from \$75 to \$85 when children attend the KERA preschool program+the child care program.

- Our infant rate would stay the same as it is commensurate with the rest of the child care community : \$115
- Our after school rate would stay the same as it is commensurate with the rest of the child care community: \$45
- We have not changed rates in 3 years.