

May 10, 2019

Dear Child Care Provider:

In honor of **Child Care Provider Appreciation Day** on May 10, 2019, we want to thank you for the care you provide children and families in Iowa as part of your child care business.

The Iowa Department of Human Services recognizes the immense importance of the work that you do with Iowa's youngest citizens. The care that you give to children not only allows their parents to go to work or school but also shapes those children's developing brains in ways that will impact them wherever they go in life.

We recognize that child care is a service in the community and without child care providers, some families could not work or attend school and children would not have safe and nurturing places to go when they are unable to be at home.

Parents need reliable and high quality childcare to be able to upgrade their skills through education, enter the workforce, and remain employed. Recent evidence suggests that childcare's effect on workforce participation, productivity, and businesses' bottom line is more significant than we've recognized. This means that you, as a child care provider, are directly impacting and improving our economy through supporting families and businesses!

We also recognize the importance in providing you with support in your day to day work. We encourage you to seek out Child Care Resource and Referral if you would like assistance in providing quality child care. You may also visit our website that includes a number of tools and resources that you may find beneficial in your work. Access to this information may be found below:

<https://iowaccrr.org/>

<https://dhs.iowa.gov/licensure-and-registration/tools-trainings-and-resources>

<https://dhs.iowa.gov/childcare/tool-and-resources>

Today, we want to voice our sincere gratitude for the work that you do and the supports you provide to families, business, and your community. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Julie Allison

Child Care Bureau Chief

Iowa Department of Human Services