



KY says I only need a High School Diploma

ABOUT ME

I am the owner of a small business in Benton, KY, that serves the early care and preschool needs of our community. I have a bachelor's degree from Murray State University, Master's degree in counseling from the University of Louisville, completing a PhD in Developmental Psychology from Capella University and a Certificate in Early Education Leadership from Harvard.

HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROFESSION

Marshall County High School - 4 Co-op placements annually for seniors to earn their Child Development Associate Credential. 5 placements annually for juniors in the Child Development Program to earn the Commonwealth Child Care Credential.

Murray State University - 6 practicum placements annually for Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education bachelor's and master's degree students.

Western Kentucky Community and Technical College System - 7 practicum placements annually for Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education associate's degree students.

WE ARE QUALITY BUT...

My teachers make **\$13/hour.**
I can **NOT** offer health care.
I **CAN offer** partnerships for scholarships, reduced-cost child care to staff, and mentorship.



THE COST OF HIGH QUALITY



State Ratio	MY Ratio	Classes	The COST
6:1 ones	5:1 ones	2	-2 (-\$360)
10:1 twos	7:1 twos	2	-6 (-\$1080)
12:1 threes	10:1 threes	2	-4 (-\$688)
14:1 fours	10:1 fours	3	-12 (-\$2064)
			-\$4192/week

I HAVE CHOSEN TO PROVIDE QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OVER PROFITS

-\$217,984 annually*
*based on iKids 2022 tuition

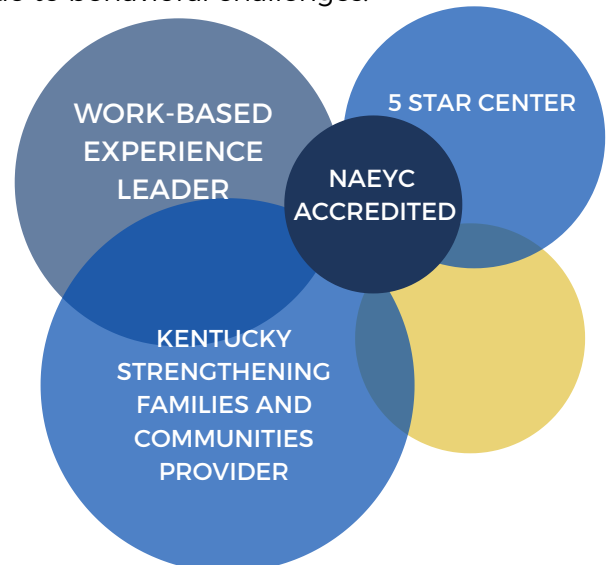


SUBSIDY...IF YOU CAN AFFORD IT

KY Child Care Subsidy pays \$34/day (toddlers) for qualifying families. That leaves a -\$10/week shortfall that parents cover. This is a HUGE improvement over the \$80/week shortfall families had to cover prior to July, 1, 2022. Thanks to the Changes to CCAP, iKids is now serving 17 children who qualify for CCAP - up from 5 only 4 months ago.

MEETING UNIQUE NEEDS

In addition to neurotypical children, we serve children with developmental delays, children with unique dietary needs, children born addicted to heroin, children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum disorders, foster children and children expelled from other programs due to behavioral challenges.





REAL NUMBERS 2022

Payroll is UP +52%

We raised tuition in 2021 to cover the raise to teachers at \$10/hour. To meet the highest tier for ARPA funding, staff are required to receive a starting wage of \$13/hour.

Rates were raised to families in August of 2021 by 9.8%

Inflation is up 8.6%

(my food costs are SOARING)

ARPA money is covering the shortfall.

IT IS NOT ABOUT PROFITS... IT IS ABOUT SURVIVAL



WHEN ARPA IS GONE IN 2023

What happens when ARPA funding dries up in 2023...

- 1.) We can reduce employee pay rates back to \$10/hour = we will likely see our workforce retreat (that's understandable)
- 2.) We can pass along additional tuition increases to cover the employee pay increase = 30-40% tuition increase to families (we will lose families)
- 3.) We can decrease our quality by increasing our ratios = **NO, I REFUSE TO SACRIFICE QUALITY**

So, what are we left to do?

That is where we need your help and continued investment

- **Expand HB 499 to include school systems and local governments**
- in our rural communities, those are our largest employers.
- **SUSTAIN the investment in CCAPP reimbursement rates and eligibility**
- **Support competitive wages, BENEFITS, and educational opportunities.**