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Child Daycare on Campus

**Introduction**

Has the thought of not being able to go to class on time or have a class at a certain time or more so even have the professor you want to have because of your children and having to stay home and keep an eye on them? What if there was a daycare on campus for you that could help you solve that problem? How about if you’re an education major and this program helps you learn all the necessities that you need to gain a better knowledge of what you are about to get yourself into in your field? All these may be questions that you don’t think about daily but are questions that you think about when it comes to your life and your education while being a parent. Nobody said that being a parent is an easy thing so here are possibilities that could help make your life a little less complicated than it needs to be. The solution that I came up with is that we start small and try to start it as a volunteer or find a daycare close that is willing to work with us, then from there we start to grow and begin to welcome in our community as we grow.

**Problem Analysis**

Society has not made it easy for your parents or even parents that have children that decide to go back to school easy for them. School has never been easy and as the higher the education gets the difficult it gets. It seems harder when you are a “student-parent” facing all kinds of obstacles (Ciciora) because as student-parents you’d have to think of yourself as well as your children. Children tend to copy as they do what the people around them do and they act the way the people around them act. That is just something that children can’t help themselves do. Callie Kirkpatrick is typical of student-parents at Texas Wesleyan. She is a mother of 3 children, biochemistry major, as well as being a college student and having a social life. Callie Kirkpatrick a friend of mine throughout the interview mentioned a lot about how she felt a daycare on campus would help her out. Since we are such a small university that offers a lot of activities and help that is necessary for students to achieve in their class Callie feels that she misses out on a lot of the academic opportunities because of having to tend to her children. Callie is a straight A student but she is upset a lot at times due to the fact that she has to pick up her kids or tend to her kids is getting in the way of her being able to go get help from the academic success center as well as getting help from her professors. She says it does bother her but having the childcare on campus it would help her tremendously because she would be able to take care of a lot of little situations at school. I asked Callie about some perks that she thinks that the program could run into if we had a daycare on campus is that the daycare would have to run longer because of the later night classes. She mentioned that the only problem there is that with the “long hours it may be hard for young children to adjust”. Another thing that Callie mentioned that when she is at home trying to get her school work done it is hard for her so therefore she tends to do it whenever everyone is asleep so she being a mom is the first one up and the last one to go to sleep every night, therefore having the day care would be able to help her cut some of that extra school work time off her back.

A program in Illinois recognizes the importance for student-parents to receive help and if given through the school it would really benefit both parent and child. Something that really caught my eye in this article is that it mention about “long-term economic stability and mobility” (Ciciora). It was basically stating how society was viewing mothers with children early as a sign of a drop out who wouldn’t be able to handle her business and take care of her children in which they would just follow in their mothers footsteps and from there the trend would begin. A question I had for Callie was how does she feel about society saying student parents are a key component to the economic stability and mobility. Her answer was, that “Society has encouraged young pregnancy through media, but is very quick to judge. Society requires a college degree to get a decent job…. and without further education to there wouldn’t be a way for them to contribute to a long-term economic stability and mobility because the young children are the one’s who will pay the price in the long run. Rather than society help those who do not it, society should help the young parents…once the cycle is broken it remains broken.” What Callie said makes a very true statement because of what she went through and what is really going on in reality and today that people don’t want to bring out because they feel it is a negative thing. Therefore I feel having a daycare on campus can be very beneficial in different sorts of ways for student-parents.

A way to get this started since we do have education majors on campus, this could be something associated with this major because this would allow the students that are majoring in education get a better glimpse and hands on to what they are about to go out and do with their major. After talking to Callie about what she thought she did mention what she feels that the program should have and that would be to have see “appropriate learning activities for each age group, early intervention programs (if needed), a nutrition program, as well as play time.” These are just some programs that we could have the student/volunteers do for the kids. The only negative and biggest cost I feel this program would be is to get it started and to find the right students that are willing to put in the time and effort to make the program successful and have the children and parents enjoy what they are doing for themselves and each other. Callie also mentions a benefit that would help out the education majors because this would allow “insight into children’s behavior. Also, they could research reading readiness and other early learning practices as well as other subjects that education major need to be familiar” with before going head on and hands on into the field of education.” This is something I would love to be able to do and I feel would benefit the students because now they having something that is very credible to put on their resumes for work and give them a bump up when they are trying to find a job. For instance it could be like The University of Winnipeg where it is more so of a student association.



In the picture this was something that the university was doing to meet student and community demands. Therefore I feel would could make our school be more involved with our community as well with being able to branch the program out to not only be available to people on our campus but also to the people in our community that need the help that they are not getting. Because in another article that was an investigation to see how much parents did involve with the caregivers this may make it easier for parents to feel like they can trust their kiddos with someone that will give them the full attention they need and help the parents be at ease. The was a big deal in the case study that Drugli and Undheim ran into when they were doing their research.

**Cost/Benefit Analysis**

So about now you’ve been hearing about all the good and bad about having the program or not having the program but the biggest question now is the cost. What’s the cost of having to pay for the childcare or more so even the cost of program to have on our campus? Well there are such things call having something subsidized. We don’t have to start big neither we can start with something small and from there become a bigger program. Start it off as just a volunteer daycare and then as we grab more attention we start to fundraise or look into other daycares near campus that are willing to help with cost or get the community involved so that it can help us as well with cost. But just like any other dealio you can’t start off with a BANG you have to work your way up and I feel that is the best thing we can do because aren’t a big university as other universities near or around us. Not only are these cost but also these are the costs that will bring us positive feedbacks and bring more students to our campus but not only that but make us closer to the community around us.

In a periodical that was found it mentioned about how subsidized daycares is affordable but it may have some kinks to it but I feel that if we as a campus work together it isn’t something that would be a problem.

Having a daycare will be very beneficiary to not only student but parents and children as well. The daycare/program will make our school be better well known around our community and it will draw more positive attention to our school. This here can and should be another campus improvement that we are making to our University.

**Conclusion**

Child daycare on campuses has shown to be very beneficial. We have been improving our campus so it is time for us to make some more changes and add on an extra improvement to our school. Many students will benefit from this as well as feel relieved and stress free. It won’t cost the school a lot and it will make more students want to come to our school and be able to attend full-time which will help out campus out especially allowing the school to make some profit from this program. Another plus that we as a school will get is that we will be getting closer to our community and try to improve the community around us little by little. It takes the little things to make a big change happen.

Work Cited

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