

KEEPING KANSANS IN *the* WORKFORCE



Best 10 states on child care oversight

District of Columbia
Oklahoma
Tennessee
Maryland
Rhode Island
New York
Illinois
Florida
Washington

Worst 10 states on child care oversight

New Mexico
Arkansas
Iowa
Missouri
Kansas
California
Georgia
Nebraska
Louisiana
Idaho

As our state continues to weather a tough economy, it's critical that we keep Kansans in the workforce and earning a paycheck. But, one of the biggest hurdles for working families is finding child care they can trust.

Kansas ranks 47th in the nation on child care oversight

When it comes to finding reliable and safe child care, families in most other states rely on a child care system that has adequate checks and balances. But, that's not the case for many Kansas families. In fact, our state ranks 47th in the nation when it comes to child care oversight. This lack of oversight has contributed to a growing number of deaths in Kansas child care facilities, deaths that could be avoided if Kansas was up to par with the level of oversight provided by other states.

One in three Kansas child care providers are never inspected

Right now, 1 in 3 Kansas child care facilities are never inspected. Although the state inspects every restaurant and every beauty salon, child care providers that fall into the "registered" category are never inspected until it's too late – when either a complaint has been filed or a child has died in their care.

CHILD CARE INSPECTIONS

There are approximately 7,500 child care facilities in Kansas. Of those, roughly 2,500 are never inspected. Kansas allows for child care providers to operate in one of five categories: registered homes, licensed homes, group day care homes, child care centers and preschools. In Kansas, all categories are inspected except for those that fall into the registered category.

We need to inspect the rest

One step toward improving the quality and oversight of child care in Kansas is to implement across-the-board inspections of child care facilities. We already have a system in place for inspecting child care facilities in Kansas. By inspecting "registered" child care providers – just like we inspect "licensed" child care providers – we can ensure the safety of thousands more Kansas children and give their families peace of mind that their children are being cared for in a safe environment during the work day.



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