

Why was I selected?

You have been selected for participation in this study from a list of providers in your area based on geographic and program criteria. It is important for us to interview every selected provider to get a complete picture of the availability and use of early and school-age care in your area. You represent many other providers across the nation.

Your participation will help to ensure that the nation's policy-makers, practitioners, and parents have an accurate understanding of our nation's early care and education landscape.

Will my responses be confidential?

All data provided by you and your staff will be used only for statistical purposes; identities of programs and individuals will not be disclosed except as required by law. All project staff who handle the information collected for the study must sign a confidentiality agreement that provides for criminal and civil penalties if confidentiality is breached.

The NSECE has also obtained a federal Certificate of Confidentiality from the Department of Health and Human Services in order to further protect your privacy. With this Certificate, NORC cannot be forced (for example by court order or subpoena) to disclose information that may identify you in any federal, state, local, civil, criminal, legislative, administrative, or other proceedings.



How can I participate?

Participating in the NSECE is easy. In an effort to make this as convenient for you as possible, NORC offers multiple ways for you to complete your interview. Contact us at nseceprov@norc.org or at **1-877-369-3240** and we'll find the best option to suit your schedule.

Questions this study will help to answer

- Who is caring for and teaching America's children when they are not with their parents?
- What are the characteristics of care available to families?
- What sources of revenue do providers rely on, and how are those sources related to the care offered?
- How can we better support the early care and education workforce and offer opportunities to help them improve the care they provide children?

Questions about NSECE?
1-877-369-3240

OMB No. 0970-0355



National Survey of Early Care & Education



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children & Families



What is the NSECE?

The National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) is an exciting new study sponsored by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation

within the Administration for Children and Families, and conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago.

The NSECE will implement a set of integrated surveys with both providers and households with young children in order to better understand the relationship between the needs of families and the early care and education resources available to them. The NSECE will contact 20,000 eligible households and 30,000 child care providers across all 50 states for participation beginning in fall 2011.

What is ACF?

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) administers Head Start and the Child Care and Development Fund (child care subsidies) programs, and sponsors research on early care and education (ECE). ACF is helping more children in low-income families access high-quality care and supports coordination efforts across multiple early childhood development programs throughout HHS and across the Federal Government. Through its direct work and in coordination with others, ACF supports efforts to build professional development systems and workforce initiatives to help ECE professionals pursue better training and higher education, moving up career ladders to higher compensation. The NSECE will assist ACF in its overall mission to improve the availability of high-quality ECE programs.

Why is the NSECE so important?

The NSECE will provide urgently needed information about the provision of early care and education and school-age care across the country. The state of non-parental care for children from the perspective of both families and providers has not been assessed in the United States for over 20 years. Since that time, there have been a number of changes that have affected both the use and provision of care. The NSECE survey data will be useful for making decisions about policies in support of families and children and initiatives in support of early childhood programs and practitioners. Now is the time to get new information so that we can inform policy makers about the challenges early care and education providers face as they work to offer quality care to children.

Who are you surveying?

The study includes four major aspects of the nation's provision and use of early care and education:

- 1. Centers, Schools and other Programs:** The survey will sample all types of organizational providers including license-exempt providers, Head Start and Pre-K providers, and for-profit and non-profit community-based pre-schools.
- 2. Classroom staff:** Teachers, assistant teachers, or aides working in early care and education classrooms will be selected to provide information about their professional experiences and classroom activities.
- 3. Providers of Home-based Care:** Individuals who provide care for children under age 13 (who are not their own) in a home-based setting will be surveyed. Participants will include regulated, licensed, or registered home-based providers (such as family day care), as well as individuals who provide informal care at home, for example, grandmothers, other relatives, neighbors, or

baby-sitters who regularly watch children under age 13.

- 4. Families with children:** Parents or guardians of children under age 13 will be surveyed to gain insight into their early care and education use and needs.

Why should I participate?

Your survey responses will be combined with others' to produce a rich data source that has the potential to benefit federal, state, and local or community-level child care policies. The data collected from this survey will be used to:

- Create a comprehensive description of the range of institutional and individual providers in the US, including community-based care, for-profit providers, Head Start programs, Pre-K, and - for the first time - informal home-based child care providers.
- Provide detailed information on the ways in which early care and education providers operate - like what curriculum they use, how they staff and organize classrooms, and what they charge.
- Help develop initiatives to support caregivers through such things as educational assistance, training, and improved pay and benefits.
- Better understand the experiences of the early care and education workforce and offer opportunities for them to improve their knowledge and skills.

