
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHILD CARE PROVIDERS RECOGNIZED

ALBANY, NY - Child care organizations and parents across the globe are joining together the Friday before Mother's Day to celebrate Provider Appreciation Day, a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers and other educators of young children. It is estimated that there are nearly 2.8 million child care providers in the United States and that nearly 12 million children under age 5 are in their care.

Governor David A. Paterson has proclaimed May 7, 2010, Provider Appreciation Day in New York State.

Locally, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and VOICE/CSEA (Voice of Organized Childcare Educators) providers gathered at a Watervliet group family day care home to highlight the important role of quality child care. "Some 772,000 children across New York State are cared for by about 74,000 child care providers," said William T. Gettman Jr., OCFS Executive Deputy Commissioner. "These children and their parents depend on child care providers every day. May 7th is the day to recognize the hard work and dedication of providers, to acknowledge their contributions to high-quality care, and to say how much we respect and appreciate them."

New York State Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari noted, "Child care providers represent the front line of our educational system. The care they provide our most precious resources in the most crucial stage of development is invaluable, and the flexibility they provide today's single parents and dual-income families can very often mean the difference between getting ahead and falling behind. Child care providers are as crucial to families as they are to New York State's economy and I am proud to honor them on this day of special recognition."

"By applauding the dedication of child care providers today, we remind our communities of the importance of high-quality child care, and let providers everywhere know that we recognize and value their important work," said Janice Molnar, Deputy Commissioner, OCFS Division of Child Care Services. "New York State is committed to quality child care and improving professional development opportunities for providers."

"It takes a special person to work in the child care field and these individuals are often unrecognized," said Gettman. "OCFS and CSEA have been working diligently to implement the Executive Order that called for child care providers to have the right to the benefits of a union."

Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers in New Jersey, Provider Appreciation Day is appropriately celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother's Day. The event has grown each year and presently includes individuals and government organizations throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

For additional information, visit www.providerappreciation.org.