

***Our submission:***

Our nearly five year old son is at the centre of everything we do. Naturally we want the best for him however the cost of childcare is crippling and would be out of our reach were it not for the CCR and CCB contributions. We have no family with whom we could leave him so we can go to work and if I were to stay at home we would have lost our home ages ago. My husband's health and subsequent self employment have been well short of consistent and being from NZ my husband is not eligible for any assistance from welfare despite ALWAYS being employed and paying tax.

Before we placed our son into a NFP childcare centre we had him in a family daycare organisation from the age of 15 months to when he was almost two . The carer was barely qualified and when I collected my son in the afternoons he was ALWAYS frustrated and grisly and waiting at the door for me to come get him and he had numerous cases of nappy rash as she was lazy and unsupervised. Her TV was ALWAYS on and I had to take time off work to care for my son whenever she had any plans....

The care difference when we joined the local early learning centre was amazing. Our son was happy to go in the mornings and didn't want to come home when we picked him up. He never had another case of nappy rash and was toilet trained very quickly. We saw evidence of learning, TV was not used to keep them busy and the educators were professional and knowledgeable.

We only get one chance to provide the best start for our future generation and affordable quality care in those precious first five years of life has been proven to be crucial. Without qualified and experienced educators the future of our children is compromised.