



ILDOCC

Illinois Directors/Owners of Child Care Centers

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Do you sometimes have the feeling you are the only one experiencing problems in your center? Here are a couple of letters we received recently. We deleted their names, but did not edit.

LETTER TO ILDOCC FROM THE FIELD:

"Initially it seemed that we were going to be able to pull through this pandemic being slightly but not terribly affected by the staffing crisis. However, we are in danger of having to close down classrooms and disenroll children due to the lack of staff members. We are desperate to find not only qualified staff but staff in general that would be willing to hold a position. The lack of staff is naturally adding stress on the staff that have decided to stay and is creating a tense environment. We have given raises all across the board and added extra benefits to show value to the veteran and potential new staff members and it seems like nothing is working. We have waiting lists for children in almost every classroom but at this time we are not able to accept any other children since it puts us at risk of violating the student to teacher ratios. We have put several job posts in two of the largest job platforms as well as in social media and we are still trying to hire at least 5 new staff members. Desperate doesn't cover it at this point, we are in dire need of help. Most of all we need the temporary rule of teacher assistants being allowed to head a classroom to remain or we are probably going to be looking at having to close our doors permanently and leave 120 children without childcare and 18 people without jobs."

AND ANOTHER:

We are unable to take children because no one wants to work when they get free \$\$\$\$. The biggest issue is to many qualification for teachers and directors. I have assistant teachers that have worked for 5-10 years and are more than qualified to be the lead teacher than some of our teachers. Anyone with common sense should recognize this.

We at ILDOCC appreciate your letters. We also want you to know that we put these comments before decisionmakers in the State Capitol.

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