

Resolution of the Indiana University South Bend Faculty Senate

Indiana University South Bend Faculty Senate 2017-18

Sponsor: Faculty Working Group on Childcare at IU South Bend

Topic: Resolution regarding reinstating childcare at IU South Bend

The sponsors remind all faculty members:

1. The Child Development Center (CDC) at IUSB began in 1969 as a parent initiated babysitting cooperative with 15 children. Until its closure in June 2017 it operated as a high quality state-licensed center that served over 70 children each semester.
2. An electronic survey distributed in fall 2017 to students, faculty, and staff received 887 responses: 67% of respondents were students, 18% were faculty, and 15% were staff.
3. 95% of survey respondents answered “yes,” that university-supported childcare should be available to students, staff and faculty. 93% of respondents affirmed that campus-supported childcare was “very important” or “moderately important” to student success. (See more results in the attached document.)
4. The faculty has profound interests in the social welfare all members of the campus community (students, staff, and faculty), and their families, and a responsibility to participate openly in deliberations and decisions regarding those interests.

Purpose of Resolution:

This resolution declares the concerns and desires of the Faculty Working Group on Childcare (and the Vendor Review Board of the Faculty Senate) and, through its passage in the Faculty Senate on **January 19, 2018**, of the faculty at Indiana University South Bend.

Be it resolved that:

The Faculty affirms that campus-supported childcare is of great importance to the university community and that an affordable, high quality child care facility should be available to students, staff, and faculty.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO THE CHILDCARE SURVEY

In September, we sent a short survey about campus-supported childcare to all members of the IU South Bend community. The survey was constructed after the campus childcare facility was closed suddenly this past summer. Students, faculty, and staff received an email requesting their participation in the survey, and links were posted on the Daily Titan and through social media venues.

Below is a brief summary of respondents and their responses to some of the questions.

Demographics

1. We received 887 responses.
2. Nearly 67% of the respondents were students, 18% were faculty, and 15% were staff.
3. About 27% had a toddler or infant or expected one soon. The large majority were not potential users of a campus childcare facility but interested parties.

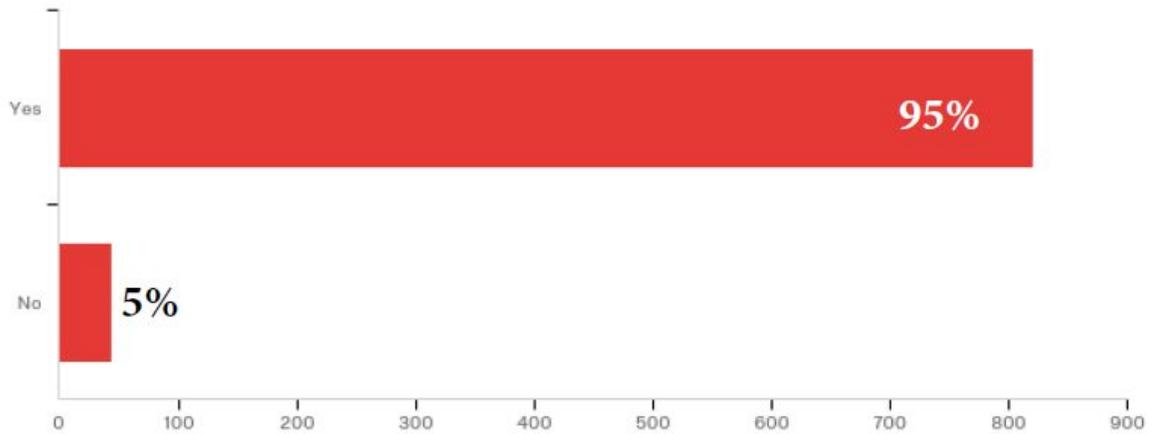
Qualitative Responses

Of 264 responses to an open-ended question regarding childcare issues interfering with the IU South Bend community (especially coursework problems for students or work issues for employees), we found:

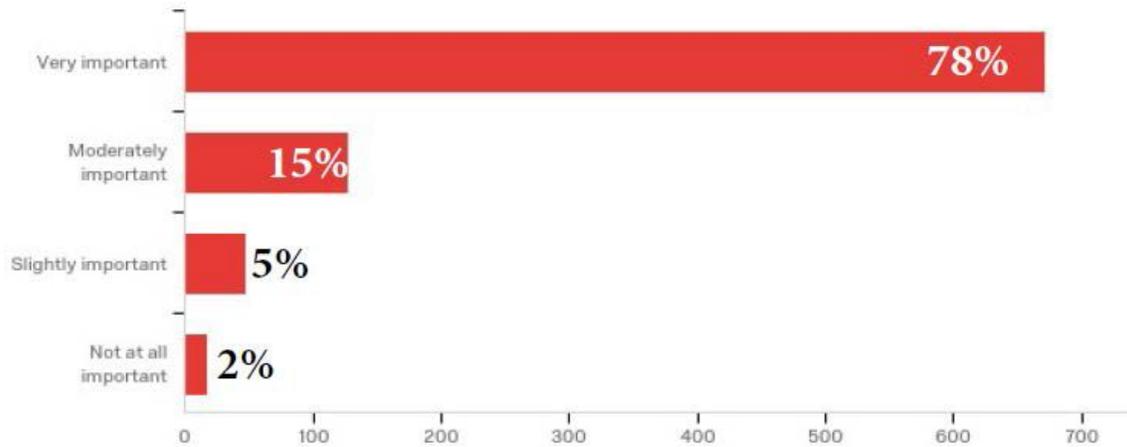
- 147 talked about attendance—either missing class (or work) or having to bring child to class. Many mentioned the distraction that caused, even when children were behaving.
- 40 discussed their presence on campus as related to childcare—either being able to enroll in courses or accepting a position as a faculty/staff member because of on-campus childcare or dropping out/leaving the position because of lack of campus childcare.
- 50 shared more general comments that were very positive about having childcare on campus.
- 15 mentioned the problem of high cost of childcare, with a fair number mentioning high cost at IU South Bend's Child Development Center.
- Five were negative. The respondents felt that childcare was the responsibility of the parents.
- Four offered other comments that did not fall into the above categories.

Quantitative Responses

Q1 - For the first time in 50 years, IU South Bend does not offer university-supported childcare on campus. Should that service be made available to students, staff, and faculty again?



Q2 - How important do you feel IU South Bend childcare support is to the success of our students?



Q8 - Do you know anyone who misses classes or does not attend IU South Bend for any of the following reasons? (Check all that apply.)

Answer	%	Count
Lack of affordable childcare	23.92%	492
Lack of convenient childcare	21.88%	450
Lack of on-site childcare	14.88%	306
Lack of evening childcare	13.42%	276
Lack of drop-in childcare	10.84%	223
Lack of part-time childcare	15.07%	310
Total	100%	2057

More than 33% reported bringing a child to their class or their office due to childcare issues.