

Resolution for Creating a UTK Childcare Task Force, May 1, 2023

Brought forward by the Benefits and Professional Development Committee of the Faculty Senate

WHEREAS the UT Early Learning Center located on UTK's campus provides excellent care to 8 infants, 36 toddlers, 52 preschoolers, and one kindergarten class; however, due to a long wait list, many UTK employees and students are unable to utilize the UT Early Learning Center for childcare or have to wait often as long as 3 years before being offered a spot,

WHEREAS there are very few childcare programs within walking or short driving distance of campus and having childcare programs close to campus would benefit employees and students with children by reducing the amount of time they spend driving to drop off and pick up their children,

WHEREAS having affordable, quality childcare programs on or near campus would also increase the graduation rate of students with children,

WHEREAS with affordable, quality childcare, UTK will be a more desirable workplace, and it will be easier to attract high quality employees,

WHEREAS other universities have developed multiple options for childcare on and near their campuses, such as Oregon State University <https://familyresources.oregonstate.edu/child-care>,

BE IT RESOLVED that the UTK administration should form a Childcare Task Force of faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students to support the UTK administration in finding solutions for expanding the current UT Early Learning Center and/or for adding additional childcare programs on or near campus that would be available to UTK employees and students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UTK Childcare Task Force should provide a written document of their findings to the UTK Faculty Senate.