

Resolution 11.14.02

Resolution on the Role of Child Care in Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

Whereas, “an estimated 9.6 million children who have not yet entered kindergarten receive some non-parental care.”¹

Whereas, high-quality child care, or even adequate child care to ensure a child’s health and safety, is not accessible or affordable for many working families.

Whereas, many parents due to nontraditional working hours cannot find or afford adequate child care are often forced to leave their children alone or with caregivers who do not have the capacity to provide safe and appropriate supervision, leaving them vulnerable to endangerment, neglect or abuse.

Whereas, high-quality child care aids in preventing child abuse and neglect by reducing parental stress and isolation.

Whereas, trained child care workers can play a crucial role in identifying and reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.

Whereas, poor conditions in child care facilities, such as high staff-to-child ratio or underpaid, undertrained staff, can lead to neglect or can compromise the child’s health and safety.

Whereas, high-quality child care can provide a safe environment, foster healthy child development and enhance school readiness for children.

Therefore, be it resolved, that PCA America supports:

Making high-quality childcare affordable and accessible to all families.

Making child care available at nontraditional hours when many low-income parents are forced to work.

Offering educational training curricula and paying child care workers livable wages in order to build a more qualified, stable, and better-paid workforce.

Legislation that provides adequate funding for quality child care for all children who may need it, including a substantial increase in “mandatory” federal funding.

¹ West, J, Wright, D and Hausken, E. (1995). “Child Care and Early Education Program Participation of Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers.” Washington, D.C.: U. S. Department of Education.