



Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County, Inc. 2012-2013 Annual Report

Mission Statement:

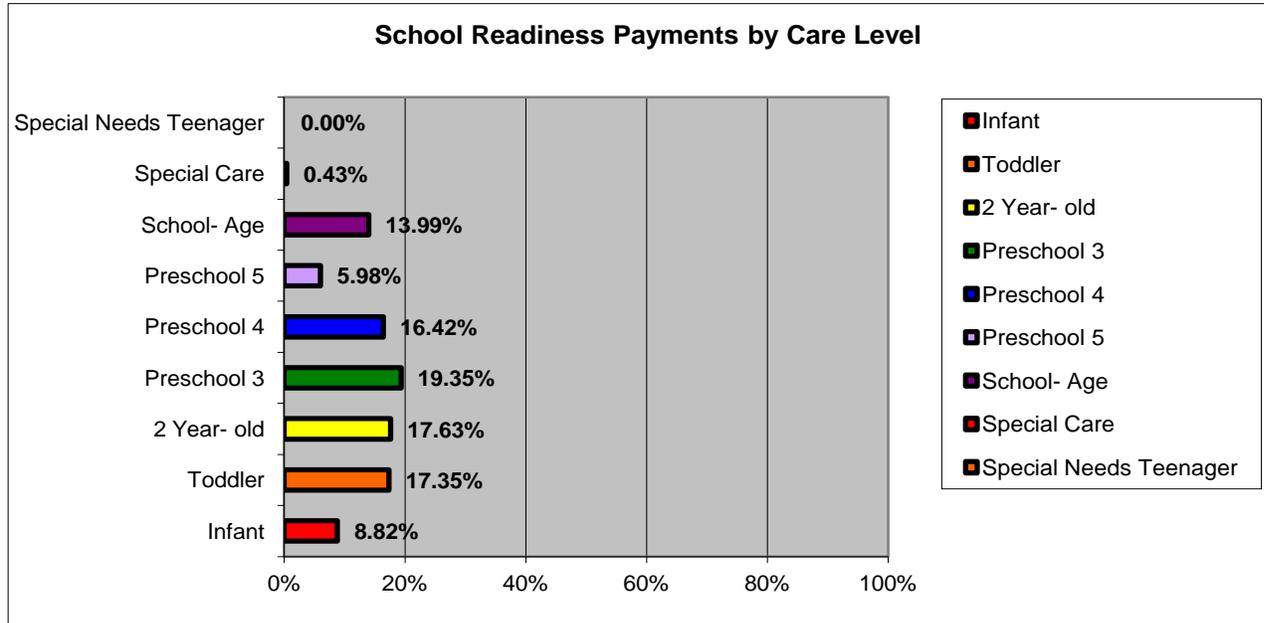
The mission of the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County, Inc. is to provide leadership and support for School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-kindergarten programs so that children have the opportunity to benefit from the highest quality early learning environments.

Data Summary: The following information is based on data collected from July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013.

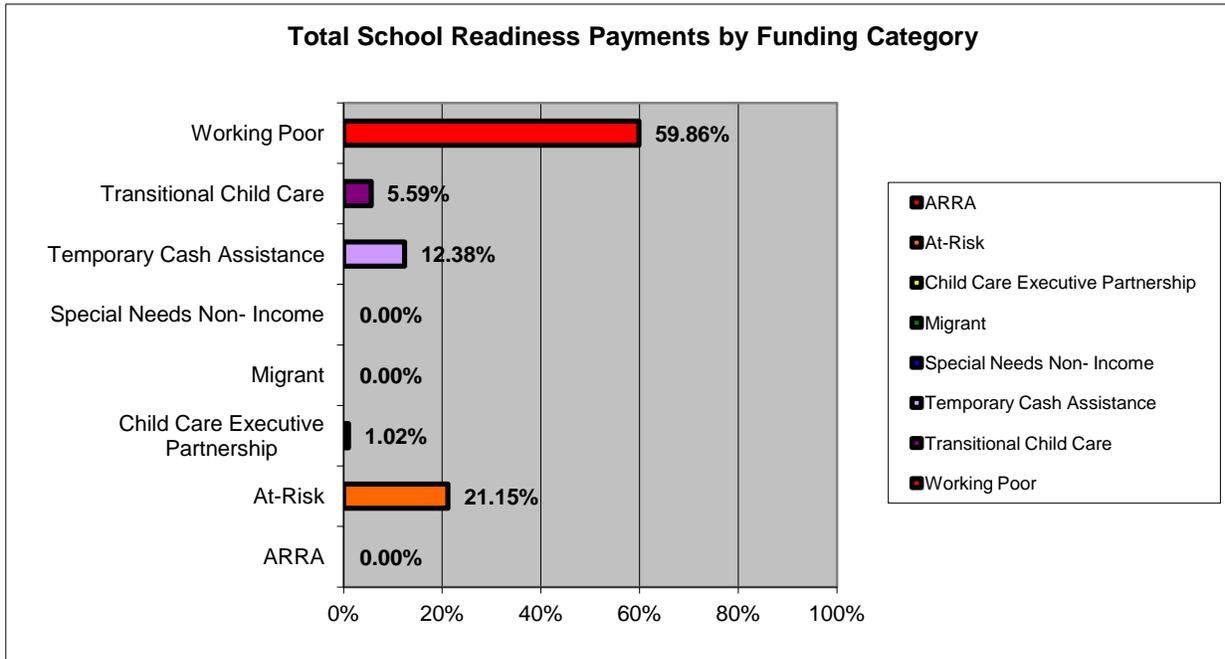
Number of unduplicated School Readiness (SR) children and families:

SR Children	SR Families
5740	3709

School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by care level:



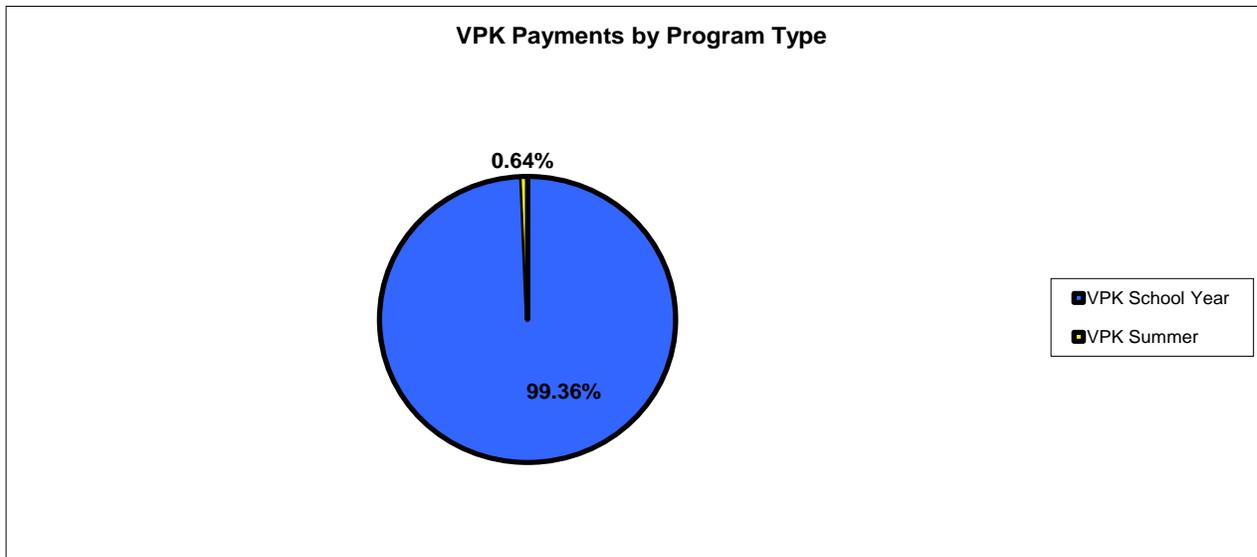
School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by funding category:



Number of unduplicated Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education children and families:

VPK Children	VPK Families
4978	4898

Total percentage of VPK payments by program type:



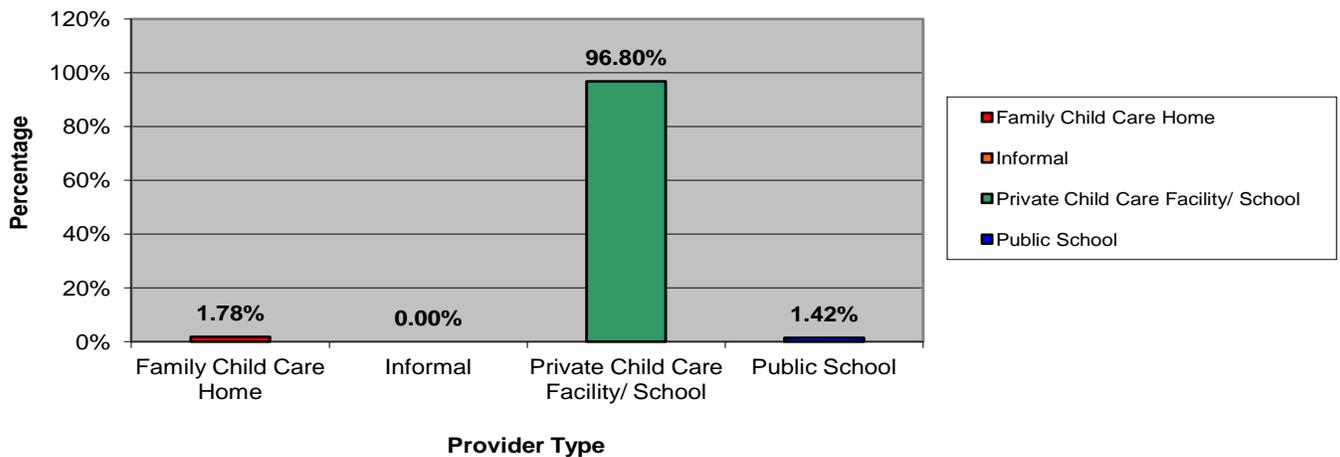
Total number of providers that participate in the coalition's early learning programs:

School Readiness Providers	Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Providers
186	190

Participating School Readiness providers by provider type:

□

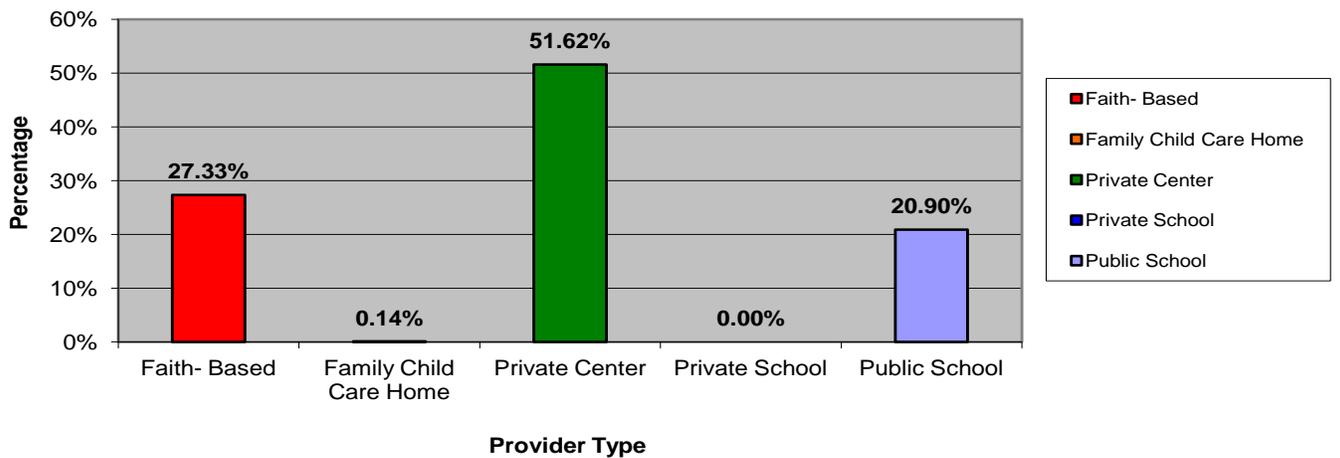
School Readiness Providers by Provider Type



Participating VPK providers by provider type:

□

VPK Providers by Provider Type



Service Delivery Summary:

Throughout the 2012 – 2013 fiscal year, the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County, Inc. continued to administer the following services in-house:

- School Readiness and VPK eligibility
- School Readiness and VPK provider reimbursement
- School Readiness and VPK provider eligibility and compliance monitoring
- Screening and assessment
- Inclusion services
- Child Care Resource & Referral

The 12.13 fiscal year provided an opportunity for continued transition for provider related quality services. The Coalition established a team of in-house Quality Assurance Specialists who received comprehensive training on CLASS, ERS and other quality initiatives such as the CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Childhood Health) program. Brevard County providers and ELC staff continued the adjustment from mandatory quality assessments to voluntary supports if requested. The Early Learning Coalition has seen a drastic decline in the administration of assessments such as ERS and CLASS due to the voluntary nature of the current program.

The Coalition also continued a collaborative working relationship with Brevard Public Schools. One example of this partnership is the continued funding of the Florida First Start program. Florida First Start provides home visiting services to high school students enrolled in the Teen Parent Programs.

Quality Activity Summary:

Activity	Narrative
What opportunities are offered by the Coalition for comprehensive consumer education?	<p>The Coalition’s Child Care Resource and Referral department continues to be viewed as the “front door” to ELC services in Brevard County. However, all ELC staff are trained on basic “front door” principals and expectations related to customer service and our local service delivery model. Additional staff members obtained their CCR&R certifications during the fiscal year.</p> <p>Monthly parent education topics were utilized during the fiscal year to provide information to customers and the community. Topic information was made available on the</p>

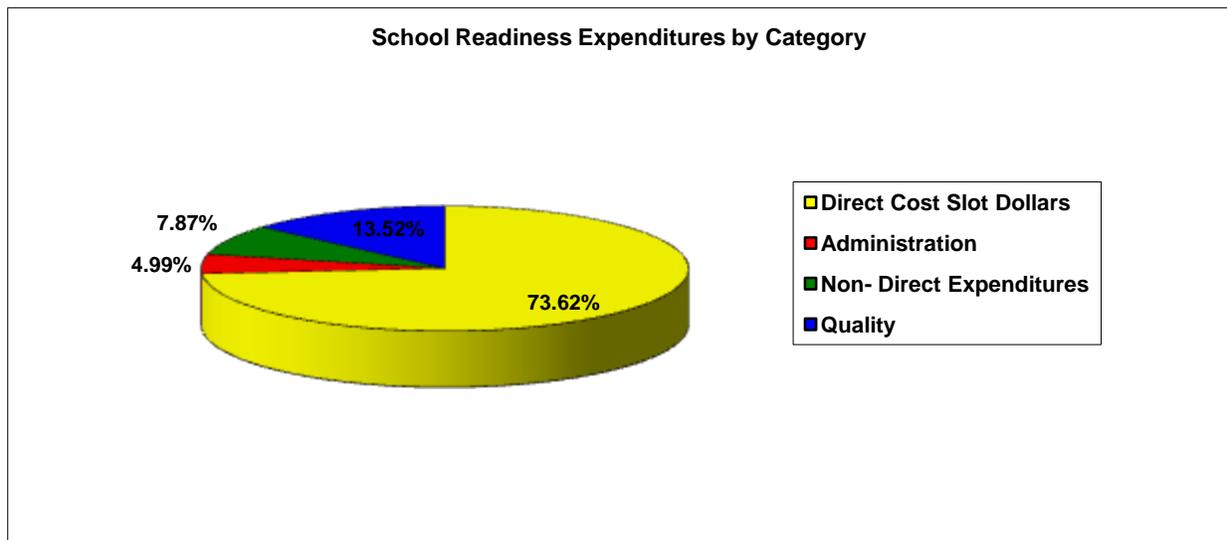
	<p>Coalition’s website as well as in office lobbies throughout the county. Topics included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Behavior • Budgeting • Bullying • Child Abuse Prevention • ELIS • Free/Low Cost Family Activities • Health and Nutrition • Importance of Play • Mental Health Awareness • Spectrum Disorders • Stress Management • Work/Life Balance • <p>VPK Round Ups also presented an opportunity to discuss the importance of selecting quality child care with parents.</p>
<p>Provide a list of grants or loans to providers to assist in meeting State and local standards.</p>	<p>No grants or loans were offered to providers in an effort to meet State or local standards.</p>
<p>Describe the process for monitoring compliance with licensing and regulatory requirements.</p>	<p>The Coalition discusses the expectations and requirements for providers contracted with the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard beginning with the first conversation from an interested child care provider. One-on-one meetings are held to discuss the various aspects of the provider agreement. In addition, the Coalition hosts multiple New Provider Orientation sessions throughout the year to review various requirements for newly contracted providers as well as for new directors or other applicable staff who may have joined an already existing contracted provider.</p> <p>The Coalition’s Provider Relations Coordinators are responsible for maintaining contract compliance throughout the fiscal year. They work closely with the providers to ensure insurance, licensing and other requirements are in compliance.</p>

<p>Provide a list of available professional development opportunities that the coalition offers, including training, education, and technical assistance</p>	<p>The Coalition provided a variety of training opportunities throughout the fiscal year. Professional development topics included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPK Assessment and Instructional Implications • Challenging Behavior Basics • 4-year-old Standards • Ages and Stages Questionnaire • Core Competencies • Music and Movement Series • Everything But the Kitchen Sink • Healthy Habits • Excelling as a Manager or Supervisor <p>In addition, the Coalition hosted its annual conference, “Beyond Pick up and Drop Off: Partnering with Parents for Early Learning Success,” in February 2013. The two day conference provided an opportunity for providers and parents to come and attend workshops themed around parent engagement.</p> <p>The Coalition’s Executive Director also continues to provide opportunities for discussion with providers during quarterly “Child Care Chats.” The Chats are informal discussions held at provider sites throughout the county. There is no formal agenda for the meetings and is designed to be a relaxed environment where providers can learn from each other as well as engage in meaningful discussions with the Executive Director about issues important to them.</p>
<p>Describe initiatives by the coalition to improve salaries and other compensation for child care providers.</p>	<p>The Coalition was unable to fund any initiatives to improve salaries or other avenues for increasing compensation throughout the 12.13 fiscal year.</p>
<p>Describe activities to support a Quality Rating System.</p>	<p>The Early Learning Coalition of Brevard does not currently have a locally developed Quality Rating Improvement System. The Coalition continues to be interested in participating in a statewide QRIS system.</p>

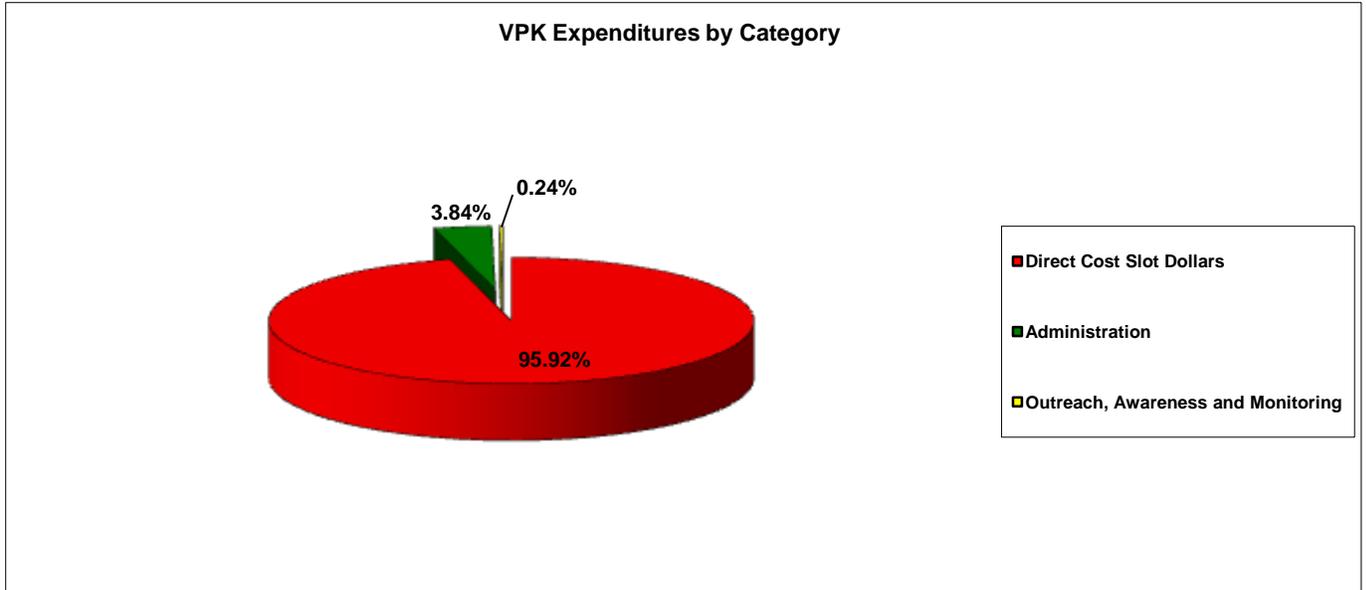
<p>Provide information on activities in support of early language, literacy, pre-reading, and early math concepts development.</p>	<p>The Early Learning Coalition of Brevard continued funding for the Florida First Start which provides home visiting services to students at three local high schools participating in the Teen Parent Program. The home visitors provide meaningful information to the teen parents in the areas of early language and literacy, all aspects of child development and learning while at the same time promoting parent-child interaction.</p> <p>In addition to the training topics already identified, the Coalition also participated in community events that aligned with our focus on early language, literacy and reading. For example, the Coalition formed a partnership with Barnes & Noble that evolved to include a bookfair in May 2013 that allowed staff to interact with children and families in the store. Age appropriate activities related to “The Hungry Caterpillar” were facilitated by Coalition staff and children from local child care providers performed on the stage in the children’s area of the store.</p> <p>Funding was obtained from the United Way of Brevard to support training and materials for the implementation of “Super Why Camps” for 15 VPK Providers on Probation. The materials focus on early literacy skill building. The Coalition actively participated in Literacy Week during January 2013. A variety of child care providers participated in the reading of “Hot Rod Hamster.” The Early Learning Coalition of Brevard was acknowledged by Florida’s Office of Early Learning as having the most minutes read during Literacy Week.</p>
<p>What activities has the coalition implemented to promote inclusive child care?</p>	<p>The Coalition’s Inclusion Coordinator continues to be very involved in the community and with child care providers. Quarterly trainings were conducted related to inclusion topics. In addition, the Inclusion Coordinator continues to engage providers through the use of the PIECE program and other technical assistance strategies.</p>
<p>How does the coalition conform to Healthy Child Care America and other</p>	<p>The Coalition remains very engaged in professional development for providers in the area of child health and wellness. Staff continues to train and provide technical</p>

health activities including those designed to promote the social and emotional development of children?	assistance related to the Nemours’s Health Habits curriculum as well as the CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Childhood Health) program funded by the Blue Foundation. Staff has been trained on both programs and educates providers about the benefits of implementing such programs at their locations.
Please describe other quality activities that increase parental choice, and improve the quality and availability of child care. (§98.51(a)(1) and (2))	The Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) staff continued to provide high quality services to families contacting the Coalition in search of information about child care services. The CCR&R department provided education to parents about indicators of high quality early learning environments.

Fiscal Summary: During the 2012- 2013 fiscal year the coalition’s total **School Readiness Program** operating budget was \$15,474,767. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



During the 2012- 2013 fiscal year the coalition’s total **Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program** operating budget was \$11,480,386. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



Program Year Summary:

Fiscal year 2012 – 2013 provided an opportunity for the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard to continue to engage the community, child care providers, children and families served. Satisfaction surveys indicated the following responses provided by families who received services during the fiscal year:

“The young ladies I came in contact with were very friendly and helpful. They made this experience easy for a new mom.”

“I am a single mother of two young ones and could not have survived without this program. Thank you for this much needed service!”

“Excellent service! Without ELC, I would have a hard time completing my college education. I was also provided with beneficial information regarding payback of student loans.”

“I am so grateful. ELC is there to help me raise my grandchild!”

“Everyone was very kind and helpful. Wish all the places I went were as great.”

“Thank you so much with your services. I would literally not be able to do it without it. I am so thankful for the ELC. My normal fee at daycare for a total month is more than half my check for the month.”