

Why was I selected?

You participated in the 2024 NSECE study. You were randomly selected for that study to help us better understand the experiences of individuals working with children. Now, it is important for us to hear from you to get a complete picture of early care and education (ECE) classroom staff and how their employment and experiences change over time. You represent many others across the nation.

Your participation will help to ensure that policymakers, practitioners, and parents have an accurate understanding of our nation's early care and education landscape. You do not have to be currently working in ECE to complete the survey.

Will my responses be private?

All the information that you and others share will be used for statistical purposes only. The identities of programs and individuals will not be disclosed except as required by law. All project staff who handle information collected for the study must sign a privacy agreement that provides for criminal and civil penalties if privacy is not kept.

The National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) Follow-up has also obtained a federal Certificate of Confidentiality from the government to further protect your privacy. With this Certificate, NORC at the University of Chicago cannot be forced (for example by court order or subpoena) to disclose information that may identify you in any federal, state, local, civil, criminal, legislative, administrative, or other proceedings.

How can I participate?

Participating in the 2024 NSECE Workforce Follow-up is easy. The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete. In an effort to make this as convenient for you as possible, NORC offers multiple ways for you to complete your survey. You can respond online, or you can contact us at nsece24prov@norc.org or at **1-800-487-4609**, and we will find the best option to suit your schedule.

What questions will this study help to answer?

- Who is caring for and teaching America's children when they are not with their parents?
- When and why do classroom staff leave ECE?
- What opportunities are available for classroom staff to build knowledge and skills?
- How can we better support the early care and education workforce, and specifically classroom staff?

Questions about NSECE?

1-800-487-4609

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB number for this information collection is 0970-0391 and the expiration date is 10/31/2027. Please send comments regarding the time required for this survey or any other aspect of the described information collection to: NORC at the University of Chicago, 55 E Monroe St, Ste 3000, Chicago, IL, 60603, Attention: A. Rupa Datta.

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Para español por favor llámenos al

1-800-487-4609



NATIONAL SURVEY OF **EARLY CARE & EDUCATION** | 2024



What is the NSECE?

The National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) Workforce Follow-up is funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation within the Administration for Children and Families, and conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago.

In 2019, the NSECE team collected vital information from home-based and center-based providers, including individuals working directly with children in the classroom, to paint a national picture of ECE services. This much-needed information helped inform funding decisions and other initiatives designed to improve early care and education across the country. Last year, we contacted over 16,000 centers to collect updated information to learn how the ECE landscape has changed since that time and how public agencies might better support ECE teachers, aides, and classroom assistants. The 2024 NSECE Workforce Follow-up study will help us better understand the experiences and challenges of classroom staff one year later, regardless of whether they still work in ECE.

What is the Administration for Children and Families?

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that administers Head Start and the Child Care and Development Fund (which funds child care subsidy) programs, and sponsors ECE research. ACF helps children in low-income families access high-quality care and supports coordination efforts across multiple early childhood development programs throughout HHS and across the federal government. Through its direct work and in coordination with others, ACF supports efforts to build professional development systems and workforce initiatives to help ECE professionals pursue better training and higher education, moving up career ladders to higher compensation. The 2024 NSECE Follow-up will assist ACF in its overall mission to improve the availability of high-quality ECE programs improve the availability of high-quality ECE programs.

Why is the 2024 NSECE Follow-up so important?

In 2012, the NSECE provided the first national profile of individuals working directly with children in the classroom, describing who they are, their qualifications, their compensation, and what motivates them to do this work. In 2019 and 2024, we collected new information to update this profile. Both of these efforts highlighted the critical role teachers, aides, and assistants play in ECE services and the professional challenges they face. They have helped agencies understand the kind of support classroom staff need in order to increase the quality of care offered and informed initiatives to better support the ECE workforce, from professional development programs to improved pay and benefits. Now, we have the opportunity to understand how the work and personal experiences of classroom staff may have changed since we collected information in 2024.

Who are you surveying?

This study focuses on early care and education providers and workforce, as well as the working families they support. We will implement two follow-up surveys of:

1. **Current or previous classroom staff:** Teachers, assistant teachers, or aides that were working in early care and education ECE classrooms in 2024 will be contacted to provide information about their professional experiences and classroom activities.
2. **Families with children:** Parents or guardians of children under age 13 will be interviewed to learn more about their early care and education use and needs.

Why should I participate?

Your survey responses will be combined with others to produce a rich data source that has the potential to benefit federal, state, and local or community-level child care policies. The data collected from this survey will be used to:

- Create a comprehensive description of the range of individuals who recently worked directly with children in the classroom, describing how their personal and work circumstances have changed, their long-term career trajectories, their compensation, and what motivates them to stay or leave ECE.
- Help develop initiatives to support caregivers through such things as educational assistance, training, and improved pay and benefits.
- Better understand the experiences of the early care and education workforce and offer opportunities for them to improve their knowledge and skills.

