

Kiersten Curtis

Changes in Child Care Over the Years

Child care over time has become more of a necessity for parents considering the workload for each and the time management involved.

As the world's population continues to grow and more households are having dual income with both parents working full-time, the idea of child care has changed drastically over the past 20 years.

Caring for a child no longer rests in the hands of the parents alone.

“Most Americans have long considered child care to be a personal problem rather than a collective one,” Bryce Covert, a reporter for The New Republic magazine said. “Today, nearly eight million families pay nannies, day care centers, or some other provider to watch over their children.”

Parents are now more open-minded to using new child care methods. They no longer have to worry about the responsibility of taking care of their children during the work day.

In these conditions, it provides parents with peace of mind that their children are getting professional care from people who have been trained specifically to take care of their children while they are away at work.

Parents seek caretakers who are CPR certified, which has not always been a major concern.

Safety regulations changed tremendously just in the past year regarding daycares and child care providers. These places of business are now more aware of potential threats to the children and how they can prevent said behaviors or actions.

“Regarding safety, the door that leads people into the daycare I work at now has a passcode on it that only parents and faculty know,” Adela Rivas, a 27-year-old, three year childcare worker said. “Which is a major change in child care safety.”

With child care there comes many downsides to protecting the children. Many daycares have doors that do not lock, or rooms with walls covered in windows making it easier for intruders to see their prey.

Safety now, is more strict for daycares specifically. Cameras are put in every room for parents to be able to watch their kids throughout the day in order to check up on them without actually having to be there.

On the bright side, child care has become a way for children to learn and be more creative in an environment that makes them feel unique.

“Beneficial outcomes for children in child care are associated with settings that provide both nurturance and support for early learning and language development,” said the Institute of Medicines book, “From Neurons to Neighborhoods.” “Child care may be seen as providing a number of services, including the provision of nurturance and learning opportunities for children.”

Child care is not just a way for parents to get rid of their kids for a few hours. It is now seen as an opportunity for children to excel in their social and communication skills.

“I have only been in child care for six months and I already see changes that need to be made,” Norma Lindsey, a 26-year-old child care worker stated. “At the first daycare I worked at, we were able to do lesson plans with the kids to prepare them, but the one I am at now does not do that and I wish they would.”

Being able to give the children a set schedule teaches them routine, which is a great skill to have when starting school.

Without the changes made in child care, there would be a huge decrease in the learning stability for young children.

Parents can now see that their children are able to grow in new ways that make them feel safe and powerful.

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Supplemental Sources:

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