TRENDS EXERCISE for Child Care Providers

Objectives:

After completing this workshop, students will be better able to:

- Identify internal and external trends, both positive and negative, that affect child care providers
- Analyze top trends and identify what steps union activists can take to respond to these trends
- Recognize the importance of becoming active in organizing, political action and legislative matters

Techniques:

Classroom discussion, small groups,

Time: 1 hour

Handout (see last pages):

- TRENDS AFFECTING OUR FUTURE
- GROUP PERSPECTIVES ON TRENDS

Materials/Aids:

- Markers for each table
- Flip chart paper

Advance Preparation:

Paste six flip chart sheets on the wall to form a large rectangle. In the center of the sheets draw/write the following:

![AFSCME Child Care Providers Together](image)
Facilitator’s Notes:

1. Distribute “brainstorming” handout, “Trends Affecting Our Future.” Explain to participants that we are going to “map” the current trends that are impacting them as child care providers.

2. Review the brainstorming directions and ask participants to think about trends that are increasing or decreasing – ex. workers joining unions, reduced funding for food programs, etc. Trends can be either positive or negative.

3. Remind participants this is a brainstorm; there is no right or wrong answer. Facilitators write up the trends around the circle as participants call them out.

4. When the trend map is complete, provide each participant with four (4) dots and ask them to go up and “vote” on the four most critical trends facing childcare providers by placing a dot next to the most important trends. Explain that if they feel a particular trend is critically important, they can place more than one dot on that trend.

5. When everyone has voted, explain to participants we are going to take time and analyze these trends and identify what steps we can take as union activists to respond to these trends.

6. Distribute the small group Task Sheet: “Group Perspective on Trends.” and explain the group task. Break participants into small groups of 5 to 6 people each. Have each group appoint a recorder and a reporter, explain to the groups they will have 20 minutes to analyze and discuss their assigned trend. Each group should be prepared to report back on their discussion.

7. Have each group report out their ideas.

8. Summarize the group reports and conclude by making the following points:
Summary Points:

- There are many trends affecting child care providers.
- In order to build women’s economic security, AFSCME child care providers must be in the forefront of the work in organizing, politics and legislative areas.
- It is critical to identify and analyze these trends in order to successfully fight for and win gains for ourselves and other members.
TRENDS AFFECTING OUR FUTURE

In the large group we will create a “map” of present trends in society - - social, economic, technological, political, environmental, etc. - - that are shaping the future of AFSCME Child Care Providers.

Ground rules for mapping:

1. This is a group brainstorm – no evaluation, no censorship
2. The person who names the trend determines where it goes on the map.
3. Opposing trends are ok.
4. Try to name a trend – something that is on the rise or decline.

Notes (for yourself):
GROUP PERSPECTIVES ON TRENDS

Appoint a facilitator, reporter and recorder for your group.

1. Discuss the key trend(s) assigned to your group.

2. Discuss how these trends affect child care providers.
   - How do we fit?
   - What is our role?
   - What do these trends mean for us as union members?
   - What are we doing about the situation you describe?
   - What are we not doing now that we want to do to?

3. Prepare a five-minute report for the whole group.

Notes (for your own use):