

RESOLUTION

(Adopted by the 1996 convention delegates)

QUALITY CHILD CARE FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS, AND YOUNG CHILDREN

- WHEREAS, Early childhood experiences of children significantly shape their subsequent academic success, intellectual growth, and self esteem; and
- WHEREAS, Increasing numbers of infants, toddlers, and young children are spending a significant portion. Of their formative years in the care of someone other than their parents; and
- WHEREAS, Children's cognitive and social development are positively related to the quality of their child care experiences with "Quality" being defined as care which is most likely to support children's positive development; and
- WHEREAS, The most important characteristics that distinguish poor, mediocre, and good quality care centers include lower child to staff ratios, staff education level, ongoing training, administrator's prior experience and staff wages; and
- WHEREAS, Historically, many child care providers have no training related to early childhood education especially related to healthy and safe environments, infant/toddler/child growth and development in typical and special needs children, developmentally appropriate teaching practices, family and community interrelationships, behavior guidance, and cultural and individual diversity; and
- WHEREAS, Most child care centers in the United States do not meet children's needs for health, safety, warm relationships and learning; and
- WHEREAS, States can have a great impact on the quality of all early childhood programs within their borders because states with more demanding licensing standards have fewer poor quality centers; now therefore be it
- Resolved, That National PTA and State PTAs urge state governments to develop licensing procedures for child care centers, preschools and family day care homes to ensure safe and healthy environments and provide a viable and strict system of enforcement of licensing regulations; and be it further
- Resolved, That National PTA and State PTAs urge state governments to develop voluntary credentialing systems for early childhood care professionals that emphasizes ongoing training in, but not limited to; healthy and safe environments, infant/toddler/child growth and development in typical and special needs children, developmentally appropriate teaching practices, family and community interrelationships, behavior guidance, and cultural and individual diversity; and be it further
- Resolved, That National PTA continue efforts to educate parents about quality child care practices and how to ensure appropriate care for their children.