

## Daycare for my Family

In 2021, my son and his wife were having their first child. My daughter-in-law is an Licensed Practical Nurse and works 5 days a week in Home Care. My son works in customer service at a local business from 7:30 – 5:00pm. They currently drive 30 minutes one way to drive to Daycare.

Several months before the baby was born they visited Daycare Centers in the Bangor area. They chose the Learning Garden which is currently on Broadway. They got put on a waiting list and knew they would not get full-time.

When my granddaughter was born, my daughter-in-law was able to take maternity leave for 12 weeks. As the date to go back to work came closer, they were only able to have 2 days a week for Daycare for an infant. They were not sure what they were going to do. They couldn't afford to not work. They were deciding who of the two made less and would have to stay home with the baby. My daughter-in-law was an essential worker. My son was thinking he would have to stay home 3 days a week and work another job during the evenings or weekends.

I decided to help my son and his wife. I was 70 and was recovering from bilateral knee replacements. Since the baby was an infant I could physically do it. My daughter-in-law's mother

Also drove from Pittston near Augusta a couple of days a month to help with childcare as well.

Over time, Daycare was able to add another day and then eventually fulltime so she goes to Daycare 5 days a week. If the child gets sick or Daycare is on vacation, I fill in.

The second issue with Daycare is the cost for a child to attend. My son and daughter-in-law feel they cannot afford a second child in Daycare so they are not planning to have more children .

Respectfully,

Paula Ballesteros

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