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People think childcare is an “easy” job but in reality, it is a very demanding job- it is physically, emotionally, and mentally draining and the pay does not reflect the actual work that goes into being a childcare provider, and that is the reason there is such a high burnout rate in childcare. The high turnover in childcare providers is not good for the children's development, kids their age need structure and consistency.

I work at a local childcare facility in Houlton, Maine, I also attend Early Childhood Education at Region Two, a CTE school. I am on track to graduate in June and attend Eastern Maine Community College for Elementary Education in the fall.

I originally wanted to go to school for early childhood education but when I found out I could get paid more being a teacher than a childcare provider I decided to change my major. I make \$12.15 which is minimum wage, and my employer cannot offer more because families are already paying the max amount they can afford. If childcare wages were supplemented the way that public school teacher salaries are it would make early childhood education a more viable career option for students like me, who have a passion for teaching our youngest and most vulnerable children.