

Lesson 2: Child Care Use among Refugees - Types of Child Care

(See Handout 2)

Option A: Large Group Brainstorm

Objectives

- Discuss child care options available to refugee families
- Explore advantages and disadvantages across types of child care for both the parent and child

Set Up (1 minute)

Ask the large group to brainstorm all the different types of child care available.

Activity (25-30 minutes)

5 minutes:

On a large easel or dry erase board, list the types of care the group identifies. Make sure that the list includes family child care providers, child care centers (including Head Start), kith and kin (relative care and/or members of own ethnic community), preschool, and non-relative in-home care (nannies, babysitters). List the types vertically down one side.

1 minute:

Continue the brainstorm by asking the group to consider the advantages and disadvantages of each type of care to both the parent and the child.

10-15 minutes:

On the easel or dry erase board, list responses from the group horizontally as corresponding with the type of care listed vertically. Encourage disagreement among the group and highlight that views of quality can be different.

Debriefing (5 minutes)

Distribute handout that summarizes possible advantages and disadvantages across types of child care and estimated cost. A sample handout is attached. Also refer participants to similar charts created by USCRI available in Chapter 3 of the [Journey of Hope curriculum](#).

Option B: Small Group Activity

Objectives

- Discuss child care options available to refugee families
- Explore advantages and disadvantages across types of child care for both the parent and child

Set Up (1 minute)

Ask the large group to brainstorm all the different types of child care available.

Activity (25 minutes)

5 minutes:

On a large easel or dry erase board, list the types of care the group identifies. Make sure that the list includes family child care providers, child care centers (including Head Start), kith and kin (relative care and/or members of own ethnic community), preschool, and non-relative in-home care (nannies, babysitters).

10 minutes:

Divide the large group into smaller groups of 5-7 people. Assign each small group one of the types of child care identified. Ask each group to consider the advantages and disadvantages for the type of child care they were assigned. Have the groups write their responses on easel paper. Have the easel paper marked so that the type of care is listed at the top, the first half is labeled advantages, and the bottom half is labeled disadvantages. As much as possible, have the space equal on all the easels so that they will line up next to each other. Reinforce to the group that not all members must agree on the same advantages and disadvantages.

10 minutes:

Reconvene the large group and ask each group to report back about their discussions. Have one representative come to the front of the room and tape his/her group's easel paper on the wall. Subsequent groups will tape their easel paper next to the other groups. Ultimately, a large chart will be created from each group's contributions.

Debriefing (5 minutes)

Distribute handout that summarizes possible advantages and disadvantages across types of child care and estimated cost. A sample handout is attached. Also refer participants to similar charts created by USCRI, available in Chapter 3 of the *Journey of Hope* curriculum.

Handout 2: Child Care Use among Refugees, Types of Child Care

Child Care Options

Type of Care	Average Cost for Full Time Care	Advantages	Disadvantages
Child Care Centers (Head Start Programs for low-income families have many of the same advantages and disadvantages)	\$250 to \$1250 a month (range includes both infant and toddler care)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliable (do not have to factor in provider calling off sick or taking time off) • High degree of supervision • Children have chance to socialize with children of same and different ages • Staff are trained in early childhood education and offer enrichment activities that may increase school readiness • Refugee children have opportunity to interact with children outside their own ethnic community and practice English • Licensed and regulated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive, especially for infants • Limited openings for infants, especially for part time care • Rigid pick-up and drop-off times including fees if parents are late • Teachers care for more than one child (recommended ratios are typically 1:3 for infants, 1:4 for toddlers, but requirements vary from state to state) • Closed during most holidays • Children get sick more often and centers will not provide care for sick children • Staff may not speak parent’s language
Family Child Care	\$700 a month (infants), \$500 a month (toddlers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurturing, homelike atmosphere • Smaller groups of children compared to centers • More affordable than other types of care • Children have chance to socialize with children of same and different ages • Refugee children have opportunity to interact with children outside their own ethnic community and practice language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No backup if provider is sick • Most providers do not have formal schooling in early childhood education. This may limit the quality of enrichment activities offered and limit benefits for school readiness • If provider is from own ethnic community and Limited English Proficient, refugee children may miss opportunities to develop English language skills • No caregiver supervision

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually more flexible pickup and drop-off times compared to centers • Provider may be from refugee’s own ethnic community • May be able to find provider located closer to work or home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less stringent licensing requirements
Non-Family In-Home Care (Nanny, Babysitter)	\$300 to \$700 a week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More personalized attention • Convenient and flexible • Children stay in familiar surroundings • Provider may be from own ethnic community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most expensive child care option • No caregiver supervision • Playtime with other children must be arranged • Extensive paperwork and taxes to make the arrangements legal • If caregiver is sick or quits there is no backup • Depending on how many children involved, provider may have to seek licensing • Provider may not have formal schooling in early childhood education. This may limit the quality of enrichment activities offered and limit benefits for school readiness • If provider is from own ethnic community and Limited English Proficient, refugee children may miss opportunities to develop English
Relative Care (Kith and Kin)	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More personalized care • Caregiver is personally invested in child(ren) • Shared cultural values • Inexpensive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May create stress on family relationships regarding expectations and obligations • Playtime with other children must be arranged • Older relatives may have hard time handling toddlers • If family member is Limited English Proficient, refugee children may miss opportunities to develop English • Family members most likely do not have training in early childhood education. This

			<p>may limit the quality of enrichment activities offered and limit benefits for school readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members may not have up to date health and safety training • No caregiver supervision
Stay-at-Home Parent	No extra cost but limits household income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No one replaces mom or dad • Parents get to participate more in child’s life • Able to expose child to own culture and child rearing preferences • No transportation or scheduling issues • Child remains in a familiar setting • Increases parental bonding with child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolating, caregiver parent does not leave home • Physical and emotional stress • Loss of income • Unless parent has waiver, he/she may be mandated to work to continue receiving other benefits • Playtime with other children must be arranged
Preschool (licensed and regulated like child care centers but with an academic focus, 2 ½ to 5 is age range)	\$250 to \$850 per month (similar to toddler care in child care centers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured environment • Well-regulated • Reliable (do not have to factor in provider calling off sick or taking time off) • Developmentally appropriate academic curriculum • Teachers are trained in early childhood education • Children get a chance to socialize with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers care for more than one child; minimum ratio is 1:8 • Children get sick more often and school will not provide care for sick children • Closed during most holidays • Rigid pickup and drop-off times • Staff may not speak parent’s language

Adapted from <http://www.babycenter.com/general/toddler/toddlerfinance/5937.html>