

Testimony Bill S10 Pre-Kindergarten

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Nature's Niños Pre-k (ACT 166 Pre-qualified)

January 25, 2019

After reading the proposed S10 bill, I am struck by the extent at which it simplifies and clarifies the ACT 166 implementation while providing provisions for quality pre-k education for all of Vermont's children. Here are some highlights of the bill that I, as a registered home provider and licensed Early Childhood Educator, find particularly relevant:

1. **It provides parental choice in regards to setting: public school, center-based or registered child care home.** (p.4 line 17–p.6 line 8.) Parents are keenly aware of their own family situation/needs and which environment may be best suited for their child's temperament and development. Choice is critical in optimally serving children and their families.
2. **Allowance for pre-k for children who are age 5 on an I.E.P. (Individualized Education Plan).** (p.2 lines 1–5) The option for an additional year of pre-k may very well promote kindergarten readiness for children with I.E.P.s.
3. **Tuition payments are made from the State Education Fund and administered by the Secretary of Ed.** (p.6 line 17–p.7 line 2) I applaud this change and the streamlining it provides. Currently, I have 11 students from many different towns and school districts/unions and send out 7 different invoices per month. One invoice would be much simpler.

CONCERNS:

- The bill allows for regional adjustments to the state pre-k tuition rate. (p.7 lines 3–4) Why?
- The database of pre-qualified providers is scratched (p.4 lines 13–14) *Parents need a database so that they know who provides pre-k.*