



Dear Parents,

As a working parent who may rely on child care, I asked your employer to forward this to you directly so that I could have the opportunity to **ask for your help celebrating your child care provider on Provider Appreciation Day, Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** (<https://childcareawarewa.org/2021/04/29/child-care-provider-appreciation-day-is-may-7/>) This year it seems especially important that we celebrate our wonderful caregivers. So, I thought I would reach out and encourage you to celebrate yours!

I am the CEO of Child Care Aware of Washington (CCA of WA). Our staff provide coaching services to all licensed child care providers statewide and help thousands of families like yours find child care. We have been in regular contact with each provider throughout the pandemic answering questions, providing much needed supplies, providing training on keeping everyone safe and providing support during these challenging times. **Based on the many stories I have heard I can tell you that our child care providers have been real heroes throughout this past year!**

So, what am I asking you to consider doing? Here's a few ideas for your consideration. As an example, I know that I received a book of child art when I was a director over 30 years ago and I still know where it is and cherish it even today!

- Get together with other parents to create a surprise for your child care provider
- [Submit a video testimonial](#) thanking your provider
- Send flowers, cards or a handwritten note of appreciation
- Gift Cards (ex. Coffee, Take out, etc.) are always appreciated
- Work with your child to create a special remembrance
- Buy something for your provider's play area

**Governor Inslee** will be making a Proclamation on May 7<sup>th</sup> expressing his appreciation for the work of Child Care Providers during this difficult time and he took some time to send me this personal ask of you!

*"I am inviting all Washingtonians to join me in celebrating National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day on May 7<sup>th</sup> by recognizing the tremendous value child care workers bring to the families they serve as well as to their communities. This past year, thousands of child care workers across the state have been providing care and support to the children of health care workers and other critical infrastructure workers on the front lines of the state's pandemic response. I'm encouraging parents, families, and employers throughout Washington to join me in celebrating all child care workers on May 7th, National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day."*

I hope you will celebrate with me. Please reach out to me with any questions, [deeann@childcareawarewa.org](mailto:deeann@childcareawarewa.org).

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deeann Burtch Puffert".

Deeann Burtch Puffert