

An Interfaith Litany for Early Child Care Educators

Leader: Today we gather to honor and recognize those who care for and educate our young children.

All: **We give thanks for the ministry of caring for our young.**

Leader: We know that working with young children is a special gift, requiring patience, humor, attentiveness and wisdom.

All: **Thank you for sharing your gifts with our young.**

Leader: When a child is sad,

All: **You are there.**

Leader: When a child is hurt,

All: **You are there.**

Leader: When a child is curious or learning a new skill,

All: **You are there.**

Leader: You are there as our children grow and develop.

All: **Thank you.**

Leader: Psalm 22:6 tells us that if we train up a child in the right directions, the child will not depart from it even when old.

All: **Thank you for training our children from an early age.**

Leader: Child care educators are essential workers in our economy, ensuring that moms and dads can go to work and be assured their children are safe and loved.

All: **Thank you for helping us provide for our families.**

Leader: Although we sometimes call you childcare workers, we should really call you early educators.

All: **Thank you for being an early educator.**

Leader: We also recognize that childcare workers, early educators, often work long hours and sometimes struggle to make ends meet for their own families.

All: We thank you for your sacrifice and pledge to support efforts to make the work – your ministry and call – more sustainable.

Leader: Let us all pray together:

All: Thank you, Creator God, for these early educators and for all who care for young children. Give them Your patience and love. May they continue to be a blessing in the lives of children, parents and this congregation. Help all of us here today in thanking and honoring those who care for the children You've placed in our care. Amen.