

My name is Cindy Carmara and I am a member of Parent Voices in Marin. My husband and I have three children, 17, 8, and 22 months old. We have been on the waiting list for three years. My husband is the sole bread winner in the family and tries to pick up as many hours as he can so we can make ends meet. Marin is a high cost county and landlords do not allow a family of 5 to live in a one bedroom apartment, so most of our income goes to pay for a 2 bedroom apartment. We do not have a support system of family and friends that can help us adding to the isolation we feel.

It's especially difficult because my 8 year old has special needs including Articulation Phonological disorder, mixed receptive expression language disorder, and speech disturbances. He is a special needs child and now goes to therapy twice a week. I can't bring my 2 yr old to those appointments and because she's never had child care, she isn't confident going to strangers. So my husband and I take turns attending therapy or watching my daughter but my husband has to take off of work to do that, something we really can't afford. I also suffer from post partum depression combined with depression that needs to be medicated.

Being on the waitlist has delayed my plans of helping my family. I attended college but dropped out when I was pregnant with my second. If I had child care assistance I could help relieve the financial stress for my family. My children and my husband could have more from me. I would be a healthier mom, someone that could work and take care of my mental health. I could take classes and finish up what I started years ago. I want to be a role model for my kids and show them. My dream is to look my kids in the eyes and say, "it took me a few years but we finally did it! Your mom is healthy and I have a degree!"

Please invest \$1 billion in child care for the next three years. We want to be healthy, loving, working families and we need your support. Thank you!