Why was I chosen?
You have been chosen for this study from a list of providers in your area. It is important for us to hear from every selected provider to get a complete picture of the availability of early care and education in your area. You represent many other providers across the nation and cannot be replaced.
Your participation will help ensure that the nation’s policy makers, practitioners, and parents have an accurate understanding of our nation’s early care and education landscape.

Will my responses be private?
All data provided by you and your staff will be used only for statistical purposes; identities of programs and individuals will not be disclosed except as required by law. All project staff who handle the information collected for the study must sign a privacy agreement that provides for criminal and civil penalties if privacy is breached.
The NSECE has also obtained a federal Certificate of Confidentiality from the Department of Health and Human Services in order to further protect your privacy. With this Certificate, NORC cannot be forced (for example by court order or subpoena) to disclose information that may identify you in any federal, state, local, civil, criminal, legislative, administrative, or other proceedings.

Questions this study will help to answer
• Who is caring for and teaching America’s children when they are not with their parents?
• What are the characteristics of care available to families?
• What sources of revenue do providers rely on, and how are those sources related to the care offered?
• How can we better support the early care and education workforce and offer opportunities to help them improve the care they provide children?

ECE researchers have and continue to use public data files (no identifying respondent information) from the 2012 NSECE survey to inform important ECE public policy decisions. The data has been accessed over 9,100 times!

Questions about NSECE?
nsece-prov@norc.org or 1-800-487-4609

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB number for this information collection is 0970-0391 and the expiration date is 10/31/2019. Please send comments regarding the time required for this survey or any other aspect of the described information collection to NORC at the University of Chicago, 55 E Monroe St, Ste 3000, Chicago, IL 60603, Attention: A. Rupa Datta.
What is the NSECE?
The National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) is a study sponsored by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation within the Administration for Children and Families, and conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago. In 2012 the NSECE collected vital information from center-based providers and other caregivers to create the first national profile of early care and education (ECE) services in more than 20 years. This much-needed information helped inform funding decisions and other initiatives designed to improve early care and education across the country. In January 2019, we will be contacting over 10,000 center-based providers across all 50 states to collect updated information to learn how the ECE landscape has changed since that time. The NSECE will implement a set of integrated surveys with center- and home-based providers, as well as families with children under age 13 to provide urgently needed information about the supply and demand for early care and education available to families across all income levels.

What is ACF?
The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) administers Head Start and the Child Care and Development Fund (child care subsidies) programs, and sponsors research on early care and education (ECE). ACF is helping more children in low-income families access high-quality care and supports coordination efforts across multiple early childhood development programs throughout HHS and across the Federal Government. Through its direct work and in coordination with others, ACF supports efforts to build professional development systems and workforce initiatives to help ECE professionals pursue better training and higher education, moving up career ladders to higher compensation. The NSECE will assist ACF in its overall mission to improve the availability of high-quality ECE programs.

Why is the NSECE so important?
With responses from more than 8,500 center-based providers, the 2012 NSECE helped administrators, policy makers, and government agencies understand what types of center-based care were available to families, how many providers there were, and what types of programs they offered. The study also gave insight into the challenges providers face in their efforts to provide quality care to the families they serve. Since 2012 new legislation, funding opportunities, and program standards have been introduced in an effort to better support center-based providers and make quality care more accessible to all families. These changes make it a critical time to collect updated information so we can examine what impact they have had on early care and education services in general and center-based providers in particular.

Who are you surveying?
The study focuses on early care and education providers and workforce, as well as the working families they support. We will implement four integrated surveys of:

1. Centers, schools, and other programs: The survey samples all types of organizational providers including license-exempt providers, Head Start and providers in school-based settings, and for-profit and non-profit community-based pre-school providers. The survey will take about 45 minutes.

2. Classroom staff: Teachers, assistant teachers, or aides working in early care and education classrooms will be selected to provide information about their professional experiences and classroom activities.

3. Providers of home-based care: Individuals who provide care for children under age 13 (who are not their own) in a home-based setting will be surveyed.

4. Families with children: Parents or guardians of children under age 13 will be interviewed to learn more about their early care and education use and needs.

Why should I participate?
Your responses will be combined with others to produce a rich data source that has the potential to benefit federal, state, and local or community-level child care policies. The data collected from this survey will be used to:

• Create a comprehensive description of the range of institutional and individual providers in the U.S., including community-based care, for-profit providers, Head Start programs, school-based settings, and home-based child care providers.

• Provide detailed information on the ways in which early care and education providers operate - like what curriculum they use, how they staff and organize classrooms, and what they charge.

• Help develop initiatives to support caregivers through such things as educational assistance, training, and improved pay and benefits.

• Better understand the experiences of the early care and education workforce and offer opportunities for them to improve their knowledge and skills.