Why was I selected?
The center where you work was selected from a list of providers in your area based on geographic and program criteria. An administrator or other leader at your facility has already contributed valuable information to this study. In order to better understand about the experiences of individuals working with children, you have been randomly selected to participate from a list of classroom staff. It is important for us to hear from every selected individual to get a complete picture of ECE classroom staff. You represent many other providers across the nation. Your participation will help to 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 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?
- How do teachers plan activities for the children in their care?
- What opportunities are available for classroom staff to build knowledge and skills?
- How can we better support the early care and education workforce and help them improve the care they provide children?

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

How can I participate?
Participating in the NSECE is easy. The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete. In an effort to make this as convenient for you as possible, NORC offers multiple ways for you to complete your survey. Contact us at nsece-prov@norc.org or at 1-800-487-4609 and we’ll find the best option to suit your schedule.

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 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 home-based and center-based providers including individuals working directly with children in the classroom 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 15,000 centers to collect updated information to learn how the ECE landscape has changed since that time and how government agencies might better support ECE teachers, aides, and classroom assistants.

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 ECE research. 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 5,000 classroom staff, the 2012 NSECE provided the first national picture of individuals working directly with children in the classroom, describing who they are, their qualifications, their compensation, and what motivates them to do this work. The information collected in 2012 highlighted the critical role teachers, aides, and assistants play in ECE services and what kinds of challenges they face in their jobs. The 2012 study helped agencies understand the kind of support classroom staff need in order to increase the quality of care offered and has informed initiatives to better support the ECE workforce, from professional development programs to improved pay and benefits.

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 ECE services in general and on those working with children in the classroom 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 will sample 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.

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 survey 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 individuals working directly with children in the classroom, describing who they are, their qualifications, their compensation, and what motivates them to look after children.
- 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.