

Ten Ways to Support Employees' Child Care Needs and the Child Care Community

In the Workplace:

- 1. Implement a cafeteria plan (IRS Section 125) that allows your employees to pay for child care with pre-tax dollars. Consider contributing funds in addition to pre-tax wages to your employee's dependent care account.
- 2. Offer flex time, telecommuting, and/or paid time off to care for sick children and/or for children's health care appointments.
- 3. Adopt personnel policies that are in compliance with the Vermont Family and Medical Leave Act and Vermont Act 117 which supports nursing mothers in the workplace.
- 4. Welcome babies in the workplace for new mothers transitioning back to work.
- 5. Connect your employees to their local child care resource & referral agency when they are searching for child care and other child/family related services.
- 6. Consider developing your own on-site or near site child care program if you can commit significant operational resources over the long-term.

In the Community:

- 7. Support local quality child care programs or program networks that agree to give your employees priority for openings.
- 8. Donate products, services, and time to the child care programs that your employees use or who are your neighbors, or who ask for your support.
- 9. Work with your local child care resource and referral agency to support efforts that improve child care availability and quality in your community.
- 10. Pool resources with other businesses and partner with your child care community to support improved child care availability and quality.

Helpful links and other resources:

- 1. Cafeteria plans: http://www.irs.gov/govt/fslg/article/0,,id=112720,00.html
- 2. Workplace Flexibility: http://familiesandwork.org/site/research/reports/2008nse.pdf
- 3. Vermont Laws:

http://women.vermont.gov/sites/women/files/pdf/Parental_Family_Leave_Guide.pdf http://women.vermont.gov/sites/women/files/pdf/Nursingwebfactsheet.pdf

- 4. How to develop a "babies in the workplace" policy: http://www.babiesatwork.org/implementation.html
- 5. Vermont's Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies: http://www.childcareresource.org/Resources/ccrpartneragencies.php
- 6. American Business Collaboration for Quality Dependent Care: http://www.abcdependentcare.com/docs/index.htm