



My parental leave is almost up and I haven't found child care I can afford.

It shouldn't have to be this way.

Kitchen Table Conversation Guide



RethinkChildCare.ca

Length - 1 hour:

(This guide can easily be adapted to a 90 minute or 2 hour session by allowing more time for discussion. If this option is available, it is recommended).

Objectives:

- ▲ To share and hear stories and experiences relating to child care in Canada;
- ▲ To look for patterns in our experience that will help identify what is working well and what change is needed;
- ▲ To inspire a belief that it does not have to be this way and a sense of hope that change is possible;
- ▲ To identify stories from participants which stand out and could be used in future phases of the campaign; and
- ▲ To build community around child care issues and to expand activist networks leading up to the 2015 election.

Process/Preparation:

A group of 6 to 8 people are invited to a table for a discussion by the host(s). These gatherings could be held in conjunction with existing events, at worksites, or as stand-alone events. If the gathering is larger than 8 people, it is recommended that the group break into smaller groups to hold their discussions and identify a host for each group. A designated person will host each conversation and act as a link back to the multi-union child care working group. This guide is a suggested plan to keep the discussion going and help ensure that the campaign builds on what arises.

Resources for hosts:

- ▲ [Fact sheet: The Economic Benefits of Child Care](#)
- ▲ [Video \(http://rethinkchildcare.ca/\)](http://rethinkchildcare.ca/)
- ▲ www.rethinkchildcare.ca
- ▲ [What is quality child care \(http://findingqualitychildcare.ca\)](http://findingqualitychildcare.ca)

Step by Step Guide for discussion leaders

Time	Objective	Ask	Points to cover	Optional prompts
<p># 1 5 min</p>	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Review objectives and additional points about Rethink Child Care.</p>	<p>Is everyone in agreement about how much time we have for this session?</p> <p>Are people open to running a bit late?</p>	<p>This discussion is part of the first phase of a multi-year campaign for public child care in Canada. Hearing one another's stories and making connections with each other is an important aspect of this work.</p> <p>Kitchen Table Conversations, like the one we are holding today, are taking place in communities across the country.</p> <p>We hope that some people who participate will be inspired to get involved and stay connected between now and the federal election in 2015!</p> <p>Thank you for coming out to share your perspective!</p>	

Time	Objectives	Ask	Points to cover	Optional prompts
# 2 15 min	Go Around	<p>In under 3 minutes.</p> <p>Please share your name and one way that child care has affected you in your life, work, community, family?</p>	<p>Before you begin the go around, ensure that these ground rules are clear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In a go-around, each person speaks in turn and everyone is asked to listen respectfully. - There is no cross-talk, no asking questions, discussion or debate. - For many of us it is a rare chance to talk about our experience with child care. Please be brief and keep to one key way that child care has affected you so that everyone has a chance to contribute. - Repeat the question. 	

Time	Objectives	Ask	Points to cover	Optional prompts
# 3 5 min	Look for patterns	Ask participants to point out any patterns they may have noticed in what was shared.	Point out any patterns you notice: - What were the themes, common experiences, differences? - What does this glimpse tell us about the system we have?	Optional prompts: - When it comes to child care services, what would help you and your family? Why? - What does quality child care look like?

Time	Objectives	Ask	Points to cover	Optional prompts
# 4 10 min	Build hope		<p>Show the video: What is Quality Child Care (http://youtu.be/OFBwfTP_DDM)</p> <p>It is important to build a sense of hope. You might share some good news like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The system we need is possible and affordable. Quebec’s \$7 per-day child care system is a good example. - In 1994, only 12% of young children in Quebec could access licensed child care. - Today, 60% of children aged 1 to 4 in Quebec can access a licensed space compared to 18% of children in other provinces. - The program more than pays for itself. Every dollar of public spending returns \$1.05 in revenues and savings for Quebec and an additional 44 cents to Ottawa. The total return on the dollar is \$1.49 to both federal and provincial governments. 	<p>Consider the time available and whether you can make space for discussion.</p> <p>You could start with a question such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does anyone know of examples of other public systems that work?

Time	Objectives	Ask	Points to cover	Optional prompts
# 5 5 min	Context to situate child care as a 2015 election issue.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After Harper was elected in 2006, the first thing he did was to cancel the Federal Provincial Territorial Child Care Agreements and the funding that was attached; - Instead families got the Universal Child Care Benefit – a \$100 monthly payment for each child under the age of six at a cost of \$2.5 billion to the federal government; and - The funding is there, it just needs to be used in the right way – to build a child care system that is accessible and affordable to all families no matter where they live. 	<p>Consider the time available and whether you can make space for discussion.</p> <p>You could start with a question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What makes you think this could be a great election issue?

Time	Objectives	Ask	Points to cover	Optional prompts
# 6 15 min	This is where we can talk about next steps and encourage people to stay connected.	What ideas do we have in the room to help move the issue forward in our region/ workplace/ community (other groups to talk to and involve)?	<p>By 2015, we want the need for affordable quality child care services to be on the lips of every voter and every candidate running for federal office. These conversations are happening across the country. In each community, what follows in the campaign will look a little different. We want to support organizing locally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do we want to gather again or let each other know what we are doing in our communities? - How can we stay connected? - Might you host a conversation like this at your own Kitchen Table? 	<p>Who else should be involved locally?</p> <p>Do you know someone who has a story that needs to be told?</p>

Time	Objectives	Ask	Points to cover	Optional prompts
<p># 7 5 min</p>	<p>Resources</p>	<p>Thank everyone for coming and ensure that you get everyone’s contact information so you can let them know about future Rethink Child Care activities.</p> <p>Let them know about the web resources.</p>	<p>Circulate the sign-in sheet and explain that by signing in participants will be added to a database and receive information and notices for events or activities related to the campaign.</p> <p>Explain that we also hope other participants might consider hosting a discussion in their workplace, with family members, community groups or affiliations. If you are interested please let me know and I will take your contact information and send it to the campaign coordinator. We have a Kitchen Table Conversation Kit with all of the information and tools you will need to host a conversation!</p> <p>There are post cards here that I hope people will take back to their workplace, community to family and friends and get them signed.</p>	

			To help engage more Canadians in this conversation we are collecting some of the compelling stories, and possibly recording them to post them on You Tube (I hope you will consider this).	
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Please take note of important stories you hear that will help build the case for a national child care program. Hosts are asked to record the names and contact information of the person who shared the story, along with some brief points about what made the story stand out. Relay this information back using the form at www.rethinkchildcare.ca or email womens-hrights@clc-ctc.ca. Please let them know that we may follow up with you and/or them for more details so that we can integrate their stories in different ways as the campaign develops.

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