



## **Idaho KIDS COUNT: Small Faces in a BIG Recession Project Quotes from Qualitative Report (2009)**

**Focus Group Research Question:** *How is the recession affecting children’s education, health, safety and employment opportunities and what is most needed from civic leaders to protect children and build better support systems?*

### **Child Care and Parenting Focus Group Quotes**

*“We really need affordable parenting classes. Everything I’ve found is \$20 or more per class. I need to be able to ask questions and get answers from real parents, especially if it’s your first time.” (Parent)*

*“You start looking at daycare places and the prices, you can’t pay for that with a minimum wage job.”(Parent)*

*“Stop thinking of parents as the failure or a statistic and start leveraging their strengths. Some parents have the resources but not the tools. Education for parents shouldn’t stop just because they are at a place where they haven’t been able to succeed.” (Provider)*

*“I’ve heard churches have been helpful. My church has started some interesting programs providing things for these people to do whether it’s gardening or medical. I wonder if we could have them do more day care.”*

*“Several years ago ICCP was available to women while they were looking for jobs. Nobody is going to hire you if you have three kids at the interview.” (Provider)*

*“Programs are conflicting with each other Food Stamps, child care—it sets people up for failure.” (Provider)*

*“We are a small preschool and 1/3 of our families lost their job last year.” (Provider)*

*“This summer we are offering a free lunch for the kids for about an hour. The food now is being given by the Idaho Food Bank, where before we used to have someone come in and buy food from the COOP and teach kids about nutrition, but now we can’t afford that. (Provider)*

*“As a daycare provider, you really get to know the families-you don’t want to cut them off and you don’t want them going to a poor quality program. You let their balance get a little bit higher than you usually would.”(Provider)*

*“I haven’t been paid from about four parents for daycare. When the bill got over \$1,000 I had to let them go.” (Provider)*

*“I’ve heard of parents leaving their 6 year olds at home because they are not able to afford childcare or any summer programs. And the kids are running around outside. They are getting breakfast and that’s it until dinner time.”(Provider)*

*“The parents are stressed out. When you are at a company and you hear 30 people are going to get laid off, that puts you in a big panic. That stress goes onto the kids, and the kids bring it to daycare, and we all hear the little stories,” (Provider)*

*“Right now, there is really no money in early childhood education. Some of the money that has gone into Idaho STARS program, it’s coming from private corporations.”(Provider)*

*“I keep sitting here thinking that this is a state that struggles with early childhood anyway. I don’t know why it would be different now during the recession.” (Provider)*