

Sugar Plums has been in business since 1995. The owner, Deborah Ellick has maintained and properly followed all of the new guidelines to successfully re open. Families are so grateful to have a safe and diligent center to bring their children each day. Sugar Plums has proven that early childcare can continue during a pandemic. We have had zero cases of COVID-19. Sugar Plums is one of the only centers that has not had to close during the pandemic due to positive cases. Each and every family thanks the teachers and administrators daily for not only being open but for practicing social distance spaces for their children.

If childcare centers are unable to remain open for families, how are families supposed to work with infants and toddlers at home? This hearing is coming at a very difficult time in our economy. Some businesses are starting to heal from the closings during March to June. Families and businesses CAN NOT work without childcare. Sugar Plums families are front line workers in the health care field, educators and small business owners.

We have been successful during COVID because we have been vigilant about following CDC and other governmental guidelines to ensure the safety and comfort of our families. We continue to have a strong and continuous dialog with our families to address any concerns, issues, or anxieties in this difficult time. We believe we are in a working partnership with our families to tackle the difficulties of this pandemic and to arrive out on the other side of it stronger, better and healthier.

The pandemic has been a very challenging time and guidelines are ever changing. The endless support of the families and staff continues to keep our community safe and we are getting through this together. Sugar Plums would not want to turn families away that need childcare. What if you were the parent in the 51% that would be asked to leave your child care center? Then what?

**SUGAR PLUMS MUST REMAIN OPEN TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A SAFE SPACE AND PARENTS MUST HAVE PIECE OF MIND THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE TO WORK TO GET OUR ECONOMY BACK ON TRACK. DEBORAH ELICK KNOWS HOW TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND NEEDS TO REMAIN OPEN TO ALL!**