

The Lowly Child Care Worker

1/7/2011

Sue Shellenbarger, from the Wall Street Journal's The Juggle Blog, has written "[The Lowly Child-Care Worker](#)." This latest blog entry focuses on the demands of being in the early childhood profession and the lack of wages, salaries and benefits associated with it.

"Child-care center directors' median annual pay is only \$34,233, according to Payscale.com, and child-care workers themselves make only \$23,437, barely exceeding the federal poverty threshold for a family of four. The mean hourly wage for child-care workers is \$9.73 an hour, falling short of coatroom attendants and short-order cooks, and barely outpacing dishwashers and burger flippers, say child-care advocacy groups such as the [Center for the Child Care Workforce](#)."

The Blog asks the following questions for readers to respond to:

"Readers, do you think child-care workers should be paid higher wages, or would it take too much of a hit out of your pocket? Would you ever want to be a child-care worker?"

We encourage you to [respond](#) and [post](#) your comments to her blog.

[CCW/AFTEF](#) has been fighting for [Worthy Wages](#) since 1991. Yes, that's correct. This year's Worthy Wage Day will mark the 20th Anniversary of the Worthy Wage Campaign. Twenty years of advocacy, but yet our wages are still low and our benefits are often nonexistent. It's time to speak out and make our voices heard! We have posted several [Worthy Wage Tales](#) on our website to help get you started in thinking of possible activities to mark Worthy Wage Day this year.

We look forward to a year full of advocacy efforts for the early childhood workforce. Please take a moment to post your thoughts on this subject to [The Juggle Blog](#).