

# Bush 88 Quayle

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## GEORGE BUSH ON CHILD CARE FACT SHEET

The following provides a summary of the four-point comprehensive child care plan proposed by Vice President George Bush:

### PRINCIPLES:

George Bush proposed a comprehensive child care strategy embodying the following principles:

#### Help to all children:

The many needs of children exist equally in families where both parents work, in families where the only parent works, and in those where one parent remains at home to provide care. Therefore, federal policy should provide assistance equally to all children in families with similar income levels. This assistance should be delivered in a way that allows parents to decide how best to provide for the care of their children.

#### Help to parents, not bureaucracies:

Child care is a need that every parent faces. The federal role is to support parents' responsibility and authority, and to broaden the choices available to parents.

Parents' child care needs and preferences are complex. There is not a "one-size-fits-all" solution as some in Congress have proposed. We should permit parents the widest range of choices possible -- including private child care centers, centers run by churches or synagogues, or care by a relative or neighbor.

Bush opposes a federal day care bureaucracy with federal standard-setting. Parents can best ensure quality when they have the broadest range of choices from which to choose. The improvement of every child's opportunities is our goal.

#### Help to low-income working families is our first priority.

These families share the goals we all do -- standing on their own, providing for their families, a better life for their children than for themselves. Yet these families face far larger hurdles to reach those dreams. We, as a society, owe help to them first.



Leadership is the key to improving affordable, quality child care.

The changes in our families and our workforce require a fitting response from government, our educational system, and employers. We have changed dramatically over the last fifteen years and our institutions must keep pace.

COSTS AND FEATURES OF THE BUSH FOUR POINT PLAN ON CHILD CARE

The specific features of the Bush four-point program for child care are as follows:

1.) CHILDREN'S TAX CREDIT  
Cost: \$1.5 billion

George Bush proposed creation of the "Children's Tax Credit," a new refundable tax credit of up to \$1000 per child under age 4, to recognize the increased costs of families with children. Implementation would be tied to the earned income tax credit. The tax credit would phase out as income rises, but would be available to all families at equivalent income levels.

Because low-income working couples face the greatest needs, families with very low incomes would be eligible immediately. To accommodate budget goals, this new tax credit would be phased in over four years, from \$11,000 in annual household income to \$16,000 to \$20,000 over the first four years; it would be phased higher as budgetary goals allow.

2.) REFUNDABLE DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT  
Cost: \$400 million

George Bush proposed to maintain the existing dependent care tax credit, and to take an additional important step to make it refundable. Too many low-income families go without the assistance we have made available to upper income families because they do not earn enough to pay taxes. A family could take the greater credit, the Children's Tax Credit or the refundable dependent care credit.

3.) CHILD CARE FOR EMPLOYEES  
Cost: \$50 million

George Bush would initiate more employer sponsored day care, starting with the federal government as a model. He would see that every federal agency provided assistance to government employees.



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Bush proposed expanding the role of employers by establishing a Federal revolving pool to reduce obstacles presented by lack of available liability insurance. He encourages flexible scheduling and benefit plans which allow workers to choose the benefits. Employers have a major role in helping parents find needed child care, but Bush does not support using taxpayer dollars to get business to recognize what it already knows: that it must provide assistance for more and better child care. Workers demand it; productivity demands it; a business's bottom line demands it.

#### 4.) MORE CHOICES, BETTER INFORMATION

##### A. EXPAND HEAD START

Cost: \$240 million

George Bush proposed to expand the Head Start program, an extremely successful early childhood program. He would begin immediately to phase in funding so that all eligible four year-olds could enroll in Head Start.

##### B. NEW PROGRAMS

Cost: \$10 million

The Vice President also proposed additional resources to address specifically the needs of all working parents for a broader range of choices and higher quality child care. Many states and localities are addressing the needs of pre-school and after-school care, improving the quality and availability of care, but many more must catch up.

George Bush would provide seed money for innovative program design in sick child care, and before- and after-school care, using educational facilities in innovative and productive ways. He proposed the following initiatives designed to expand the availability of day care alternatives:

- a.) Incentives would be given for school districts to create or expand programs for before- and after-school care, and for public private community partnerships for innovative latch-key assistance. Ideally, these programs would also have an educational component.
- b.) Employers would be encouraged to provide more flexible work schedules, benefit plans and to include child care in cafeteria plans.
- c.) The Department of Labor would develop consumer education guidelines and information and referral services.

Total Cost of Proposal: \$2.2 billion

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