"More New Songs

Black Star's First Album in

Trending

At Work; Worthy Child-Care Pay Scales

A version of this article appears in print on

Employee Project at 510-653-9889.

Information on Worthy Wage Day is available from the Child Care

she whips the health-care system into shape.

Perhaps Hillary Rodham Clinton will need another project after

'Parents of young children are going to be in the labor force. What

country lacks: a national policy on child care. "We have a

like public education, it's a social good."

Children to have a higher level of care than parents can afford. It's

subsidy, said Heidi Hartmann, an economist who directs the

The Worthy Wage Coalition is calling for a minimum average wage

option with depressed wages.

care allows consumers to opt for cheaper alternatives to regulated

area think the market will take care of workers' concerns. "The

Bad news is that, even as the number of centers has grown to accommodate the

1988, for an annual salary of $15,488. That's about twice as much as

WHY are child-care workers badly paid? One clue comes from the

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American children in child care are in certified, regulated centers.

dollars are off by 20 percent. About a fifth of the 10 million

demands of working parents since the mid-1970's, salaries in real

the burgermeisters at McDonald's make. The bad news is that,

slightly better: in 1992 they made $8.85 an hour, up from $8.19 in

year. The highest-paid teachers at the centers, most of whom have

require more skillful handling than a toddler? No? Then try on

child-care centers.

more than most of the people who take care of human animals in

who take care of zoo animals make on average nearly $2,500 a year

Federal Government's Occupational Outlook Handbook: People

is held, consider the following fact, culled from the pages of the

IF wages are any indication of the esteem in which a person's labor

problems; we are continuing to work to improve these archived versions.

This is a digitized version of an article from The Times's print archive, before the

start of online publication in 1996. To preserve these articles as they originally

seen, The Times does not alter, edit or update them.

"The original study may be remembered for the chill it sent up

many a working parent's spine: the high turnover of child-care

The high turnover of child-care positions is a problem in itself. The

requires a 24-hour watch, such as that of the Highline Child Care

But there are other, more complicated reasons as well. "Child care

As many teachers interviewed have left their jobs. Turnover stabilized

required to fill, according to a study sponsored by a group of teachers

three-quarters of them, according to the study sponsored by the

comparison with that paid to teachers in regular educational programs. The

"We don't think it would cost very much to pay these teachers

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Many of the teachers, who are usually college graduates, are

Back Next

Today's Paper

Watching a Word

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convinced that the high-school gradient, which is seen in so many

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