

### 3. A Day in the Life of A Working Parent

#### At a Glance...



When childcare emergencies happen, and they will, it is important that parents have a plan for handling the emergency so they won't jeopardize their job or their childcare arrangements.

#### Time Required



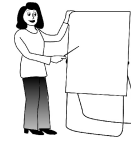
20 to 35 minutes, depending on the number of class participants.

#### Core Concept



Parents will plan for obstacles or emergencies that may arise in relation child care

#### Objective



Participants will identify potential barriers/emergencies that may arise in obtaining quality child care.

#### Materials



- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ "A Day in the Life of A Working Parent Game" (handout E-3-a)
- ☐ Coins or buttons to serve as game pieces
- ☐ "Child Care Dilemmas: What Do I Do When...?" (handout E-3-b)



## Icebreaker

**Forming Teams:** Have participants mingle in the group and identify the person whose birthdate (not year - just month and date) is closest to their own. Find out two things they have in common. Each pair formed will work together on the game today. If your group is large, bring two pairs together to form a four-person team. If the number of participants is odd, one of the teams will have three persons.



## Facilitator Script

Prepare in advance materials for “A Day in the Life of A Working Parent Game” (handout E-3-a) (every two to four participants should receive a set.) Give each group a set of materials and read the instructions.

1. Each participant should pick a parent game piece and a number card to see who goes first (the highest number goes first and the rest of the participants follow clockwise.)
2. The game board represents a day in the life of a working parent. The game is played by the players picking number cards and then moving that many spaces forward.
3. Every time a player lands on a space that says, “Child Care Crisis Card,” he or she must take a card and attempt to answer the question on the card. Answers should be discussed with the other game players.
4. The purpose of the game is for you to think about possible child care crises that could happen and what you might do to solve the crises — there is no one right answer.
5. Once each player makes it to the space that says, “Hooray, you made it through the day,” the game is over.

Ask each group to play the game until all participants have reached the last square on the board. If you have only one class participant, then you should participate in the game.

Discuss the dilemmas participants faced as they played the game. Use the following questions to guide the discussion.

How did you solve the problems?

Did someone else have the same problem and come up with a different solution?

## Final Thoughts



Distribute copies of “Child Care Dilemmas: What Do I Do When...?” (handout E-3-b.) Ask participants to look over the suggestions for handling child care emergencies and to keep this paper on-hand as they begin to search for child care. Point out that having a plan is the best way to prepare for emergencies.