

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 3, 2000

LB 925

don't have the proper amount of intellectual stimulation, a lot of those synapses in the brain don't ever develop, and bonding is so important in early childhood, and the kind of person that you're going to be as an adult are established at that point in time, and I just think it's extremely important to have quality child care.

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, I interrupted before you got a chance to say what specific types of things would be included with accreditation.

SENATOR SUTTLE: According to the National Association of Education of Young Children, they look at the number of staff per children, the kind of communication between staff and children and families. Usually the child care has a curriculum. There is staff development and ongoing education for the staff, and administration that makes sure that all of that happens, a physical environment that stimulates the child. Health and safety is a very important along with nutrition and, of course, evaluation of the program by the Health and Human Services and Education Departments.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, thank you, Senator Suttle. Well, Senator Landis mentioned bricks and I guess I would ask him which are the most important bricks here? Is the most important brick the tax credit or is the most important brick providing a child...a quality environment for the child? And I understand his...his comments about cost and budget and so on, and I think...I certainly agree with him. I think we have to be very careful at this stage as to what we add in terms of budget, but I guess I would suggest that we not lose sight of what we're really after here. And I think what we're really after is to provide tax credits only if there is a significant goal met in terms of this state...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...policy regarding child care. And I would suggest to you that the proposal brought by Senator Suttle is a very valid one, that I think it is critically important that if you're going to offer any sort of incentive that you make that incentive lead in the right direction. And she didn't say it, I