Re-Scripting Early Care and Learning On Screen

By Vicki Shabo

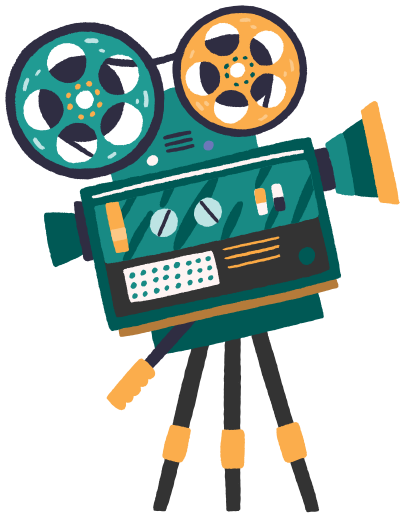
Authentic representation in TV and film can help transform culture and systems for early child care and education, for the benefit of all.

People in the United States are forced to manage the care and education of young children in unsustainable ways. Parents are strapped for time with their young children and money to support their households. Parents who forgo paid work to care for young kids often feel unsupported by a dominant narrative measuring adults' worth by their attachment to the labor force. Meanwhile, parents who need or want paid jobs struggle to find child care that aligns with their budgets, work schedules, and desire for high-quality care.

It's a complicated problem for child care providers as well as families. Licensed child care programs face high operating costs. Despite public support for more government funding, federal and state investments fall far short of what providers and parents need. Informal care provided by family, friends, and neighbors receives even fewer public dollars. And early educators' pay is often too low to sustain their own families.

Despite this reality, **television shows and films rarely acknowledge child care as a major factor for parents, families, employers, or communities**. On-screen narratives tend to overlook the messy, emotional, and practical considerations involved in trying to find or provide care. Instead, storytelling quietly reinforces a narrative that child care is an individual family's responsibility to carry alone, often by omitting care considerations altogether, leaning into problematic tropes, or treating it flippantly. Shows and films can unwittingly suggest that child care is a luxury, just "babysitting" or "daycare," or an afterthought, rather than what it actually is: a focal point for family dynamics and budgets, essential to shaping young minds, and central to the economy and society.

This guide helps creatives change the story. It offers storytelling tips to encourage on-screen visibility of care considerations, address audience knowledge gaps, and provide alternative visions for a brighter future where care is visible and supported.



Dive deeper: See our top 10 facts and policy milestones to ground stories involving child care and early education; and learn how to complicate common narratives about child care and early learning on screen—with practical suggestions that creatives can use to subvert harmful tropes and stereotypes. For helpful definitions, we recommend this glossary.

This resource guide was originally published in October 2026. Read it online at go.newamerica.org/rescriptingchildcare.

What's On Screen Now?

On screen today, child care is largely invisible and lacks authenticity, nuance, and complexity. A 2024 Geena Davis Institute study found that only 20 percent of TV parents with children age 10 or younger mention child care, and even fewer reference the logistics or costs of care.

Authentic depictions of child care workers are also rarely seen on screen. In workplace shows, child care is usually invisible and, in the rare instances when an on-site child care program is depicted, workers or conditions are seldom acknowledged. In homes, according to a 2022 Norman Lear Center study, the term "nanny" is often used interchangeably with "babysitter" or "sitter," even when care responsibilities include nurturing and educating children alongside their physical care. Workers are realistically shown most often as women, but on-screen caregivers are usually white and unrealistically affluent, while in reality, immigrants and people of color make up a disproportionate share of care providers, and most real-life providers are paid poorly.

Three Ways to Tell a Richer Story

To elevate the real-world challenges and solutions related to caregiving and generate more authentic narratives that connect with wide audiences, we encourage writers to change the story.

1. Make Child Care Much More Visible and More Nuanced

In real life, parents cannot ignore child care concerns, but on screen, these issues seem to barely exist. Despite practical constraints related to production and budgeting on projects with young children, there are numerous ways to weave the care of children into storytelling, whether or not the children themselves are on screen. For example:

- **Acknowledge the need for child care and make sure the audience knows where a young child is, even if they don't see the care scenario**. Address where a child will receive care, whether from a parent, another family member, a friend, a neighbor, in a formal child care center or family care home, or a mix. For context, about 60 percent of children from birth to age five spend time in non-parental care at least once a week, and nearly 40 percent of parents report using more than one care arrangement for the same child.
- **Include conversations about the logistics**. Trade-offs, gaps, last-minute scrambles for coverage: This can be a source of rich material—fueling humor, tension, suspense, and heart to create moments of connection, conflict, and resolution between characters that make them feel real and relatable.
- **Show what happens when child care plans fall through—both for parents and other characters**. In a 2026 survey, 50 percent of parents said that their ability to work is affected by child care challenges, and 40 percent of voters overall said that a coworker's child care challenges have affected them. Make this part of characters' lives.

When children appear on screen:

- **Depict the specific care arrangements a family chooses and make the provider's labor visible**. Whether an on-screen parent is a child's primary care provider or chooses child care in another form, depict the feelings and work involved in providing physical care and meeting children's social and emotional needs.
- **Acknowledge child care workers as whole people**, whether through a full story, a line or two of dialogue, or background action. For example, if a show features an on-site child care program, include interactions between care providers and parents or providers and children to show workers in action.

Stories that centrally feature child care arrangements are great, but even small, incidental references to care—where they would actually appear in real life—will help shift culture and make characters and scenes more relatable to viewers.

Representation helps viewers with children feel they are not alone. It creates awareness about what parents face for people without children. It underscores how critical child care is to parents' ability to work and address their own needs as humans. And it makes visible just how complex the decision-making around managing unpaid care and paid work can be, with factors like guilt, time, money, and logistics driving those choices.

22%

of U.S. viewers say they see families managing work and child care on screen very often, and only 20% say it's done extremely well.

—New America/MarketCast survey, 2025

Examples we love that change the story:



- ***The Bear* (FX, 2026)**: In season 5, episode 2 of this dramedy series, Natalie tearfully confides in co-worker Tina that she feels guilty over spending so little time with her baby. Tina reassures her that these complicated feelings are normal.



- ***Ex-Pats* (Amazon Studios, 2023-24)**: This limited drama series treats in-home nannies and domestic workers as full humans and brings to light how often the families they work for take them for granted.
- ***Rap Shit* (HBO, 2022)**: In season 1, episode 1 of this comedy series, Mia asks her mom for backup care during Mia's work hours to fill a gap left by her baby's father, Lamont. While Lamont initially falls into a "deadbeat dad" trope, he eventually evolves into a more engaged, responsible father over the season.
- ***No Country for Mothers* (Moms First, 2026):** This feature documentary explores the realities of motherhood in America and how families have too little support regardless of their child care preferences and arrangements.

2. Acknowledge the Costs of Care—and How Hard It Is to Find

Adding specificity about a character's financial and logistical challenges inspires viewers' awareness and understanding. The cost of care is one of the biggest challenges faced by both families and providers, but nearly half of Americans underestimate what child care truly costs: an average of $13,000 per year for children under age five. One-third considerably overestimate worker pay–which averages just over $15 per hour. And half of Americans wrongly assume the U.S. government provides the same support or more support to parents and the child care sector compared to other countries. In fact, the U.S. provides far less.

Other surprising facts: Most middle and lower-income parents say they struggle to find high-quality arrangements during their work hours in a geographically convenient location. Close to half of families with young children live in communities termed a "child care desert," in which there are three or more children for every licensed spot in the community (e.g, in a formal child care center, a family care home, a Head Start program, or through school-based pre-3, pre-4, or pre-K.) Many families also turn to care provided by family, friends, and neighbors that is unlicensed.

Writing these facts about child care cost, quality, and access into storylines can help to educate viewers. It can also help viewers feel less alone, reduce judgment about people's child care choices, shift stereotypes of stay-at-home parents, and bolster calls for more public investments in child care and parenting.

74%

of U.S. viewers find on-screen economic challenges relatable—creating opportunities for both audience education and connection.

—New America/MarketCast survey, 2025

Examples we love that change the story:

- ***The Conners* (ABC, 2019)**: In season 2, episode 3 of this comedy series, a very pregnant Becky worries that all of her income will go to child care, sarcastically joking that her soon-to-be-born daughter should just stay at the hospital where there's a child care center and a cafeteria.
- ***Margo's Got Money Troubles* (Apple TV, 2026)**: In season 1 of this dramedy series, Margo cannot work without infant care. She articulates the relationship between work and child care and remarks on the expense of care to her parents in multiple episodes. In episode 3, she even brings her infant to a job interview.
- ***Nightbitch* (Searchlight/Hulu, 2024)**: In this horror dark comedy feature film, when Mother, the main character, tries to talk to her husband about finding part-time work, he dismissively tells her "the math doesn't add up" because all her pay would go to child care. He suggests she "hang on until kindergarten."

3. Help Audiences Imagine a Different Reality

Television and films help audiences imagine different realities and, ideally, solutions. Media that creates visibility can spur viewers to consider fresh possibilities. This can be done in virtually any genre, including fantasy, sci-fi, and horror, as well as those like comedy and drama, where these stories appear more regularly.

When it comes to creating better child care systems that support families, there are hopeful realities to draw from in the United States and other parts of the world. Characters and communities on screen could push for change in ways that are already happening in the real world. Examples include:

- Citizens coming together to advocate for investments in child care, as lawmakers, parents, providers, and advocates did in New Mexico. Their advocacy helped elect pro-child care lawmakers, pass a state ballot measure, and win other policy changes to secure free child care.
- A young mayor expanding access to free child care programs and creating a new initiative to provide parents with a night off while their kids attend community programming, as Mayor Zohran Mamdani did in New York City.

- A business or CEO considering how to expand child care for their workers and communities, as a federal law has incentivized in tech manufacturing and companies like Patagonia have long done.
- Child care workers organizing to form a union, as in-home providers and other early educators have done in several states, including California, Illinois, Oregon, and Washington.
- Emergency response planners integrating child care centers, home providers, and informal networks in emergency response plans, as Los Angeles County officials were urged to do in the wake of devastating 2025 wildfires, so all caregivers can access emergency readiness training and recovery support.

Incorporating examples of characters making change in their own workplaces and communities can be powerful. Audiences are eager to see people on screen speaking up and taking action—for themselves and for others.

Even more powerful are shows and films that build worlds where families, providers, and children are all supported and thriving. This allows audiences to imagine how it would feel if every family had both the time and money they needed to care for their children in whatever way they chose, providers were able to serve all the families that need care, and child care workers were respected and paid well.

83%

of U.S. viewers are interested in seeing characters find solutions to work-family challenges, including child care access.

—New America/MarketCast survey, 2025

Examples we love that change the story:

- ***Grey's Anatomy* (ABC, ongoing)**: In this long-running medical drama, parents—both moms and dads—are often shown dropping off and picking up their children at Grey-Sloan Hospital's on-site child care center and, occasionally, interacting with center staff. In season 18, episode 13, Dr. Jo Wilson, a single mom at the time, credits the child care center as making it possible for her to work.
- ***High Potential*, Pilot (ABC, 2024)**: In this police procedural's pilot episode, cleaning person-turned-police investigator Morgan negotiates a substantial child care stipend with her employer, recognizing that her full value to the Los Angeles Police Department depends on reliable care for her infant and school-aged children.
- ***Make a Circle* (PBS, 2024)**: This feature documentary tells the story of child care workers in California winning labor rights while caring for young children and supporting often-stressed parents.

LEARN MORE

Discover more insights for storytellers from the Re-Scripting Gender, Work, Family, and Care initiative.

- **The Power of Stories About Work, Family, and Care on Screen**: Key findings from a 2025 New America and MarketCast survey of 1,310 U.S. streaming viewers and real-time social media analytics about TV and film storytelling.
- **Writing About Civic Engagement with a Work-Family Lens**: Advice for storytellers on showing characters who push for change.
- **Writing About Jobs, Money, and Work-Family Stress**: A resource guide to portraying workplace and financial pressures with nuance.
- **Writing About Working Parents**: A tip sheet on eliminating tired tropes and stereotypes so working families on screen look more like parents in real life.

Our full resource collection for creatives is available at newamerica.org/entertainment.

Interested in learning more? Our colleagues at New America produce original research and writing on policies and practices related to care and early learning. We are also connected to policy and advocacy experts, researchers, and families and providers with lived experience. Contact us at entertainment@newamerica.org for connections.

Acknowledgments: Early child care and education experts Elliot Haspel and Julie Kashen and filmmaker Jen Bradwell provided helpful feedback on this resource guide; their work is included in many of the sources consulted.

ABOUT US

The Re-Scripting Gender, Work, Family, and Care initiative at New America's Better Life Lab advises entertainment creators and executives on ways to tell rich, meaningful stories and amplify the great shows and films already doing that work. We aim to see more authentic stories on screen that engage and grow audiences by reflecting their own lived experiences and aspirations.

Child Care on Screen: Ten Facts and Key Policy Milestones for Storytellers

To tell authentic stories about care on screen, creatives need context about the realities of child care in the United States and key policy moments over time.

By Vicki Shabo

The ten key facts and policy milestones in this resource help to provide writers with context about early care and learning in the United States. This background information is meant to inform writers' shaping of circumstances facing a family, business, or community on screen, avoid stereotypes, build more credible narratives, and tell richer stories.

Want to learn more about telling better child care stories? See our Re-Scripting Child Care and Early Learning On Screen guide.

Ten Facts About Early Care and Learning in the United States

1. Most parents need child care. At least two-thirds of children under age six–more than 14 million children–live in households where all parents work in the formal paid labor force. Other parents choose part-time, episodic, informal, or gig work because care is unavailable or unaffordable. Even families with stay-at-home parents have episodic child care needs. Sixty percent of children under age 5 receive some type of non-parental care each week.

2. Stay-at-home parents need relief and respect. Parents are rarely compensated for caring for their children, even though their labor holds significant economic value. Counter to media depictions of stay-at-home moms as white, affluent, and defined by the role, real-life households with stay-at-home moms tend to have higher rates of poverty and lower incomes than households with two working parents.

3. High-quality care—whether at home or in programs—is essential to children's development. The brains of infants', toddlers, and young children through age eight, develop faster than at any other life stage: From birth through age three, for example, children form more than one million new neural connections per second. Whether from a parent or care provider, social and emotional learning and nurturing care are critical to healthy development, with significant benefits to both children and parents.

4. Child care is one of a family's biggest expenses. Formal center-based child care costs, on average, more than $15,000 annually for an infant and over $12,000 for a four-year-old. Child care costs account for about 10 percent of a married couple's income and 33 percent of a single parent's. Care for two children costs more than mortgage or rent payments in nearly every state. Prices rose by 23 percent from 2020 to 2025, often outpacing inflation in housing and food costs. Many families use informal arrangements, with parents working opposite shifts or family, friends, or neighbors taking on care, largely because formal care is so unaffordable.

5. Child care programs are cash-strapped—and the sector is now threatened by private-equity firms prioritizing profit over safety, continuity, and care. Rising costs of child care for families do not mean higher profits for care providers–most of whom operate on one-percent margins. Overhead expenses include rent or mortgage, salaries for enough trained staff members to meet required child-to-adult ratios, facility upkeep, insurance, food, and supplies. When the COVID-19 pandemic sparked instability across child care centers, private-equity firms moved in to purchase them–and now run the vast majority of the 11 largest child care chains in the country. For-profit centers tend to focus on serving high-income families and may compromise child safety and risk closures that affect families and care workers.

6. Early educators play an essential role for children and parents, yet pay is low and providers are leaving the field. Child care workers earn an average of $15 per hour ($22 per hour in care centers), and workers are leaving the field for higher pay in retail and food service. Forty-three percent of child care workers have low enough incomes to qualify for public food, health care, and income support programs. Nearly half report not being able to afford enough food for their own families, and many report mental health challenges and burnout. A shrinking workforce affects families' ability to find care and centers' ability to meet staffing ratio requirements.

7. Child care demand far exceeds supply. Local supply dynamics vary considerably, but nationally, nearly half of children under six (46 percent) live in a so-called "child care desert"—a community where there are three or more children for every licensed spot in a child care center, a family child care home, a Head Start program, or a pre-K program. Rural communities are even more likely to face care shortages. To address staffing challenges, some policymakers are proposing or enacting rollbacks of required worker-to-child ratios, which could pose safety concerns.

8. For parents who work variable or non-standard schedules, child care is even more scarce. Just eight percent of child care centers and one-third of family care homes provide care during non-standard hours, and parents with unpredictable work schedules must either pay for a spot they won't use or face being unable to retain a spot they've reserved.

9. Child care shortages have ripple effects on businesses and the economy. Parents' inability to find child care keeps businesses from finding and retaining workers. Mothers' labor force participation plummeted in 2020 and remains inconsistent. Child care challenges lead to parents' absences and cutbacks in hours. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce recognizes child care availability as a business issue, and a recent study found $70 billion in economic losses due to workers' child care disruptions.

10. U.S. investment in child care lags behind that of other countries and spending on K-12 schools. Public funding for child care is standard practice in other countries, but U.S. funding is woefully insufficient at just $500 per child, compared to $14,000 in economically competitive countries. Most of the existing federal funding in the United States filters through states, which means that experiences of parents, providers, and children vary dramatically depending on where they live. Moreover, spending on early care and learning in the U.S. is far lower per student than spending on K-12, despite the critical brain development window for children under five.

POLICY MILESTONES

U.S. policymakers have made conscious choices about child care—at some moments, investing in care, in other times, retreating from it. To write authentic stories about families who navigate the complexities of care in the United States and the workers and systems that provide and support care, it's essential to understand how we got here. Here's a quick snapshot of key developments:

- **During World War II**, the federal government funded state and local child care centers so that women could work in factories in jobs vacated by men fighting in the war. More than 3,000 child care centers serving as many as 600,000 children operated in nearly every state.
- In **1965**, Head Start began as a summer program for young children from families with low incomes. By 1967, Head Start sites expanded to full-year programs offering both schooling and other services to parents and kids as an anti-poverty measure. While imperfect, Head Start was expanded to serve immigrant children and children with disabilities, and—while still underfunded—has historically received support and funding from lawmakers across party lines.
- In **1971**, Congress passed a bipartisan bill to establish a national child care system envisioning facilities across the country offering comprehensive educational, health, and nutritional support. President Nixon, pressured by conservative-values groups, vetoed the legislation. Tax legislation in this same era established a key part of the privatized system we have today, which perpetuates unequal support for families by income level since existing tax credits disproportionately benefit higher-income families.
- In **1990**, federal legislation established a system where federal dollars flow to states through the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, but the program has never been funded at the level of need. Moreover, this state-by-state approach means families' access to care varies considerably depending on state political climates and their different approaches to funding care; this affects children's eligibility for care, the quality of early learning, and provider pay.
- In **2020**, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government offered temporary stabilization grants to child care programs to keep facilities open and increased child care block grant funding. These grants expanded access for families, reduced costs for parents and providers, and boosted educator pay.
- In **2021**, Congress considered, but ultimately failed to pass, new large investments in child care to address supply, affordability, and quality.
- In **2024**, when Congress failed to renew COVID-era federal funding, many states rolled back improvements. However, others stepped up to pass policies continuing support to parents and the child-care sector.

Currently, there are proposals to invest significantly in child care at the national level and in several states. Momentum is fueled by recent policy changes in states ranging from Kentucky to New Mexico to Vermont—showing the power of organizing, research, and storytelling in securing major wins that are benefitting parents, children, and educators. There's also some movement to regulate private equity firms' role in child care to curb the risks of harmful cost-cutting.

Acknowledgments: Early child care and education experts Elliot Haspel and Julie Kashen and filmmaker Jen Bradwell provided helpful feedback on this resource guide; their work is included in many of the sources consulted.

This resource guide was originally published in October 2026. Read it online at go.newamerica.org/rescriptingchildcare.

Seven Ways Screenwriters Can Tell More Authentic Stories About Child Care

Research shows viewers want to see child care depicted honestly in TV and movies. Here's how writers can upend tired tropes.

By Vicki Shabo

Child care is a common pressure point in everyday families' lives, yet the complex challenges and little details of securing it are often left out of TV and film storylines.

Want to learn more about telling better child care stories? See our Re-Scripting Child Care and Early Learning On Screen guide.

Seven Tropes or Stereotypes—and How to Subvert Them

Parents, children, and early educators can all be fascinating, complex, relatable characters, whether they are central to a story or supporting it. Language and depictions that make care invisible or an afterthought, treat child care as "babysitting" or "daycare," and flatten the emotional lives of parents, kids, and caregivers are missing key moments of connection with audiences and opportunities to shift cultural narratives about early care and learning

1

TROPE OR STEREOTYPE TO AVOID	**Invisible care arrangements.** Parents who give no thought or attention to child care, and children who have no needs or whose needs are discounted.
ALTERNATIVE	Active conversation, negotiations, and logistics that show the interplay between work and care.
WHY?	The vast majority of parents work outside their homes, and they cannot go to work without considering child care. This care is often expensive and hard to find, especially if care provided by a parent, friend, family member, or neighbor isn't feasible or when work schedules and care options do not easily align.

2

TROPE OR STEREOTYPE TO AVOID	**Invisible children.** Children on screen or off-screen, but part of the story, who have no needs or whose needs are discounted or used solely for comedy.
ALTERNATIVE	Discussions about or depictions of children being cared for physically, socially, and emotionally, even in small ways, in the background, without dialogue.
WHY?	Children's brains develop rapidly in their earliest years. Providing examples of parents and paid caregivers engaging thoughtfully with children can provide a powerful example to normalize high-quality care and inspire empathy and understanding in people who do not have children.

3

TROPE OR STEREOTYPE TO AVOID	**Child care is a mom's expense.** Discussing or referencing child care costs as a percentage or multiple of a mother's wages in a household with married parents.
ALTERNATIVE	Child care costs framed as part of the shared household budget or in relation to other essential costs, such as food, utilities, or housing. Helpful sources: • Child Care Aware Index of Child Care Prices • Economic Security Project Dashboard • Urban Institute Affordability Index
WHY?	Positioning child care costs solely in terms of a mother's income, without any reflection, sarcasm, or commentary, actually reinforces the idea that a mom is the only alternative to paid child care. It also suggests a mom's work is optional if the cost of care is more than the mom's pay. Using comparisons makes the issue more tangible and positions child care as a significant core expense—shared by the entire household. Pointing out the long-term costs to a woman's financial stability, job prospects, and retirement can be a complicating and interesting addition to a story.

4

TROPE OR STEREOTYPE TO AVOID	**Mom is responsible for part-time care, of course.** Moms are the default caregivers, without conversation or explanation—cutting back on hours, quitting jobs, or leaving work to manage unexpected child care needs or doctor's appointments. Conversely, dads are inept, lazy, or just "babysitting" when caring for their kids.
ALTERNATIVE	Discussion about who is watching the kids, doing child care pickup, taking a sick day, or changing a job schedule when child care needs or costs shift. Dads share the same levels of joy and competence as parents and have equal responsibilities in child care.
WHY?	Creatives can help normalize the expectation that moms and dads are equally suited to care for children and reinforce many younger men's interest in being more engaged with their children.

5

TROPE OR STEREOTYPE TO AVOID	**At-home parenting is a breeze.** Stay-at-home parents are essentially vacationing and shown as frivolous, disorganized, or inattentive to their children. Moms are focused on other things, while dads are bumbling, or parents are perfect caregivers and household managers who either never experience stress or exhaustion or consider stress and exhaustion to be virtues.
ALTERNATIVE	Stay-at-home parents facing highs and lows; teaching and nurturing children rather than just "babysitting"; domestic labor as part of the stay-at-home parent's role.
WHY?	Normalizing the domestic labor of at-home parents as work, and showing the executive functioning and emotional demands of stay-at-home parenting reinforces the value of unpaid care.

6

TROPE OR STEREOTYPE TO AVOID	**Child care is child's play, with an eye on the clock.** Paid caregivers are depicted as incapable, unskilled, comedic foils, or invisible, or simply there to pass the time while a parent is working.
ALTERNATIVE	Trained professional workers who are knowledgeable about children and development; care about what's best for kids; offer wisdom, support, and community for overwhelmed and stressed parents; have their own families and personal lives; and struggle with managing work and family in jobs that are often high-stress with low wages.
WHY?	Bringing visibility to how child care is labor, and a professional job helps shift culture toward recognizing its societal and economic value. Using the term "child care" rather than "day care" helps to underscore that a care worker is actively teaching and nurturing a child rather than passing the time and watching the clock.

7

TROPE OR STEREOTYPE TO AVOID	**In-home care providers are just babysitters, and babysitting is easy, fun, and unskilled.** Conflating full-time social and emotional care and teaching with "babysitting."
ALTERNATIVE	Early childhood care is dedicated, professional work that includes teaching social and emotional skills, nurturing, and physical care. In-home caregivers are also full humans with their own lives, concerns, and personal and family needs.
WHY?	Professionalizing the value of in-home care for children and treating in-home caregivers in holistic ways with respect to their own lives and circumstances can help to shift audience expectations around safety, wages, and benefits.

ABOUT US

The Re-Scripting Gender, Work, Family, and Care initiative at New America's Better Life Lab advises entertainment creators and executives on ways to tell rich, meaningful stories and amplify the great shows and films already doing that work. We aim to see more authentic stories on screen that engage and grow audiences by reflecting their own lived experiences and aspirations. Please contact us at entertainment@newamerica.org for resources and research, storytelling support, and connections to other experts.

Acknowledgments: We thank early child care and education experts Elliot Haspel and Julie Kashen and filmmaker Jen Bradwell for providing helpful feedback on this resource.

This resource guide was originally published in October 2026. Read it online at go.newamerica.org/rescriptingchildcare.