

NO ONE IS COMING TO SAVE US



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Use these questions to guide your discussion around the podcast and the overall childcare crisis.

No One Is Coming To Save Us is brought to you by Neighborhood Villages and Lemonade Media. Listen to the podcast here: <https://bit.ly/3jkh82c>

EPISODE 1: YOU'RE NOT CRAZY, CHILD CARE IS.

1. Child care and early education is EXPENSIVE in the United States. Has the cost of child care impacted decisions you, your family, or your partner have made? What did it cost you – if not in dollars, in work balance or the wellness of your family?
2. Along with the high costs to access and operate early child care programs, our educators are often severely underpaid. Did you know how much it costs to run these child care programs? Did you know how little educators are paid? How do you feel about what early educators and care givers make in the United States? Did anything you learned surprise you?
3. K-12 is mandatory for kids nationwide – but 0-5 is an afterthought. Why do you think we regard and support early education (0-5) so differently than our public K-12 system?

EPISODE 2: BIRTH OF A BROKEN SYSTEM

1. We've seen a lot of ups and downs with child care in America. What about the history of child care did you find the most surprising? Did anything in particular stand out for you?

2. BIPOC and particularly Black women, have provided the free or low-wage labor upon which our child care system was built. How does this legacy of exploitation manifest in the American child care sector today? What has changed over time? What hasn't?

3. Welfare reform legislation in the 1990's meant major changes to federal child care assistance programs for low-income families. Effectively, these reforms reduced access to child care for low-income families while simultaneously increasing their need for it. How did this happen? What are the stereotypes or stigmas that created the conditions for this "reform"?

4. Did you know about the federal child care program established in the 1940s during WWII? How does it make you feel to know that, once upon a time, we did have nationwide child care? What were reasons for why the system was created – and why do you think it was dismantled?

5. Universal child care would change the lives of so many families around the country. How do you feel, knowing that, once again, the U.S. almost had universal child care in the 1970s? If you could say something to Reagan or Nixon, what would it be?

6. A lot of the conversation around child care falls on the shoulders of women. Imagine, if American men carried and birthed babies, do you think we would still be talking about the child care crisis? (Fellas... this question is for you, too!)

EPISODE 3: GOOD CHILD CARE *CAN* WORK

1. Other countries invest in child care, but not the U.S. In fact, the US ranks 35 out of 37 developed nations in its per capita investment in early education and child care. And we're one of only two countries that has no true child care system in place. How does this make you feel? How do you imagine life in the U.S. would be different if parents didn't have to worry so much about child care?

2. Gloria said it best... “when women’s work is valued, suddenly child care becomes possible.” Episode three shows examples of this in action (the U.S. military, Patagonia). Do you agree? Can you think of other examples of child care successes? How about examples of a disconnect, perhaps examples of where women’s work is valued, yet still, they lack the child care supports they need?

3. Families have had to sacrifice many things in order to afford, or just manage, their child care. How would having guaranteed access to child care change – or have changed – your life?

4. We’ve been suffering without affordable, quality child care across the nation for years now. The pandemic also made it clear that child care is a foundational part of our economy. Should fixing child care be a priority for Congress, the President, and state houses across the country?

EPISODE 4: HOW WE SAVE OURSELVES

1. Episode 4 showcases how people across the country are fighting for change — and winning — in their own communities. Do you know of any organized efforts to fix child care policy in your state or in your community?

2. The child care crisis affects more than just moms, dads, and guardians. It trickles down to everyone. Is solving the child care crisis a fight you see yourself being a part of? What type of actions would you be comfortable doing, to advance the cause?

3. The COVID-19 pandemic upended everyone’s lives. For some families, it shed a new light on child care. Has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your relationship to or understanding of the child care system? Was your child care interrupted? How did that affect your day to day life?

4. Research shows that the return on investment in early education and child care is 13:1. That's a better return than any other public investment we make as a nation. Kids who attend early learning programs do better in school, are more likely to graduate from high school, have better overall health, and go on to earn more money over their lifetime. How do we change the conversation around child care so our nation invests in it in a serious way?

5. After listening to all podcast episodes and learning how broken our child care system is, how do you feel? Angry? Tired? Frustrated? Eager? Indifferent?

6. In your opinion, what would you like the child care system to look like? What needs to change so families and kids get the support they need? What do you need?

7. Recent legislation about child care has been introduced to Congress and in state houses across the country. Do you think passing child care legislation should be a key priority for elected leaders?

8. We need the government to step up and invest in child care at every level – in cities, in states, and nationally. When you think about voting for elected officials (like members of Congress or your state governor), would you make child care a key reason for voting for one candidate over another?



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