

**Event:****The lived experience of today.**

Example: Many people can't afford child care. Parents, namely women, are leaving the workforce to care for children, and families are spending disproportionate percentages of their income on child care costs.

Pattern:**The trends related to the event.**

Example: The cost of child care has increased "over 200 percent in the last 30 years."

Structures:**The way the parts of the system are organized and interact.****The structures are dictated by norms, rules, and policies.**

Examples: Child care workforce costs; carer-to-child ratio requirements; licensing requirements; reporting requirements; competitive marketplace (for providers and parents).

Beliefs:**The values and mindsets that justify the structures.**

Examples: Government cannot afford to provide child care for everyone; people shouldn't have children if they can't afford them; mothers should stay home with their children; the primary value of child care is that it allows parents to be economically productive; family choices are individual, personal decisions; competition ensures quality and lowers costs; carers are in their professions because those professions are a calling, not for money; anyone can babysit a child.