

The Business of Early Care and Education in Illinois:

Providers' Tools for Improving Quality



This report was funded through the generosity of the McCormick Tribune Foundation.

Spring 2004

Introduction

In August of 2003, Chicago Metropolis 2020 released a report, “The Business of Early Care and Education in Illinois: The Role of For-Profit Providers.” The report was driven by two basic concepts: (1) compelling research demonstrating that children who participate in high quality early care and education programs are more successful in school and more productive in later life and (2) a surprising lack of information about for-profit providers, despite the fact that they are an integral part of the Illinois’ formal early care and education service delivery system.

Due to gaps in the way statewide information is gathered, the picture of for-profit child care centers is incomplete. We do know that thousands of Illinois families choose for-profit centers to nurture and educate their children. For-profit providers comprise twenty five percent of center-based care and education. Ninety percent of those centers are licensed.

The report concluded that, like their counterparts in non-profit child care centers and schools, the vast majority of for-profit centers struggle to make ends meet while seeking ways to increase their service quality. Therefore, to help all children enter school ready to succeed, we must enhance quality in all programs, regardless of their tax status.

This Resource Guide is a tool that will allow providers easy access to information and programs that can help them enhance the quality of their programs. For-profit child care center owners and administrators are the primary audience, but we believe that this guide will be helpful to all early care and education providers.



For more information, visit: <http://www.chicagometropolis2020.org>

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Chapter 1: Accreditation Supports

See Chapter 6 on Professional Development (pages 92–96) for information on Program Accreditation and Early Care and Education Program Accreditations.

What is Program Accreditation Support?

Accreditation is a designation of quality awarded to child care programs that meet national standards set by accrediting organizations, as well as a professional, voluntary self-study system. Program areas that are evaluated for accreditation include: curriculum; professional qualifications and development of staff; physical environment; teacher/child interactions; teacher/family interaction; health & safety; nutrition; and administration.



Child care programs often need resources to earn and maintain accreditation. The technical assistance process used in the process of attaining accreditation significantly improves staff administrative, organizational, and teaching skills, leading to higher quality programming.

In Illinois, Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs), the Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children’s Statewide Accreditation Mentoring Project (SAM), and Partnerships for Quality Child Care are funded to conduct training and provide accreditation facilitation support to assist individual providers in achieving accreditation.

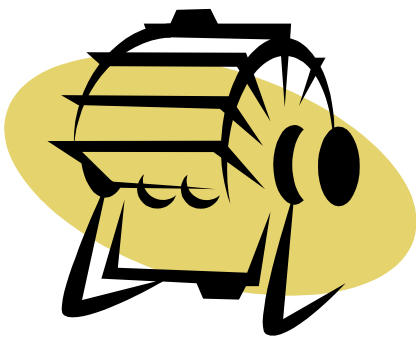
What Are the Benefits of Program Accreditation Support?

- Accreditation facilitators provide valuable mentorship and assistance to individual programs to obtain and maintain accreditation.
- Funds may also be available to defray application fees and/or meet national standards for equipment and facilities.
- The accreditation process can help teachers and administrators effectively implement best practices to promote young children's healthy development, as well as raise a program's level of professionalism.

Local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&R) Accreditation Support

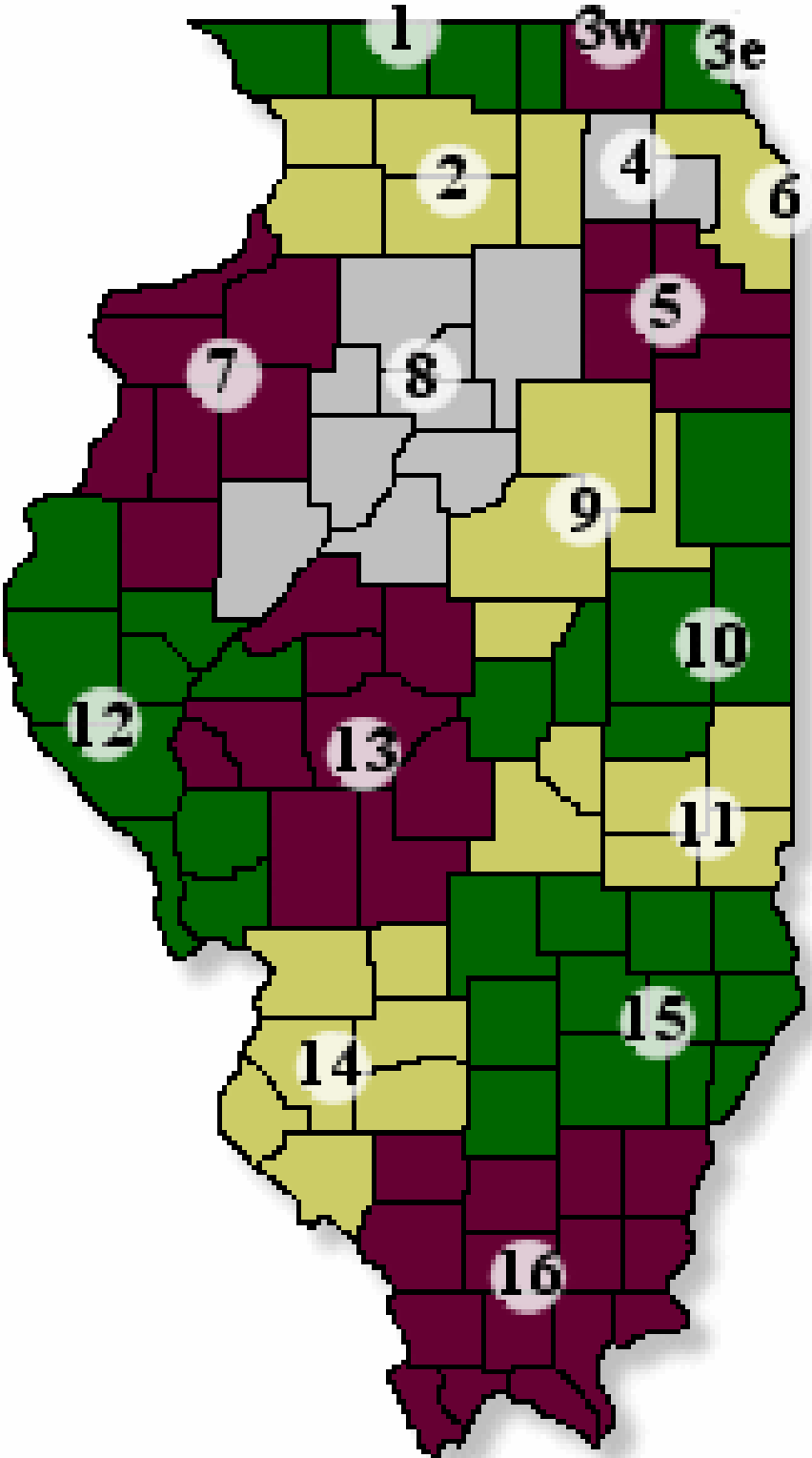
For all early care and education programs

CCR&R agencies in Illinois work in partnership with child care providers, parents, business leaders, and government officials to make quality child care available to Illinois families. Each of Illinois' Service Delivery Areas (SDAs) has a Child Care Resource & Referral agency that serves the communities within the SDA. Among the CCR&R core services is funding for accreditation support. Contact your local CCR&R agency to access these resources.



- To contact your local CCR&R agency, go to <http://www.ilchildcare.org>. Click on Quick Links/Find Child Care Now!/Find Your Local CCR&R.
- Or call toll free 1-877-202-4453 (20-CHILD) and enter your zip code.
- A listing of and website links to each CCR&R is available at <http://www.ilchildcare.org>. Click on Quick Links/Find Child Care Now!/Illinois CCR&R Directory.

Map of CCR&R Regions in Illinois



Source: <http://www.ilchildcare.org/parentsandpublic/findccrr.asp>

Directory of Illinois CCR&R Agencies

SDA 1

Serving Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, and Boone counties

YWCA Child Care Solutions

4990 E. State St.

Rockford, IL 61108

email@ywcachildcaresolutions.org

Phone Numbers

Referral 815-484-9442

888-225-7072

Providers 815-484-9442

Subsidy 815-484-9448

800-872-9780

TDD 815-484-9442

SDA 2

Serving Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside, Lee, and De Kalb counties

Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) *Phone Numbers*

(Child Care Resource & Referral)

155 N. Third Street, Suite 300

DeKalb, IL 60115

terie@four-c.org

Referral 800-848-8727

Providers 815-758-8149

Subsidy 815-758-8149

TDD 800-848-8727

SDA 3-E

Serving Lake county

YWCA Child Care Resource & Referral *Phone Numbers*

YWCA of Lake County

2133 Belvidere Road

Waukegan, IL 60085

pittmanl@ywcalakecountyil.org

Referral 847-662-4247

800-244-5376

Providers 847-662-4247

Subsidy 847-662-6129

SDA 3-W

Serving McHenry county

McHenry County Resource & Referral *Phone Numbers*

667 Ridgeview Rd.

McHenry, IL 60050

janf@four-c.org

Referral 815-344-5510

866-347-2277

Providers 815-344-5510

Subsidy 815-344-5510

SDA 4

Serving Kane and DuPage counties

YWCA Child Care Resource & Referral

YWCA Metro Chicago/DuPage District
739 Roosevelt Road
Bldg. 8, Suite 210
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
ywca.dupage@ywcachicago.org

Phone Numbers

Referral 630-790-8137
Providers 630-790-3030
Subsidy 630-790-8009
TDD 630-790-8137

SDA 5

Serving Kendall, Will, Grundy, and Kankakee counties

Child Care Resource & Referral

801 N. Larkin Ave.
Suite 202
Joliet, IL 60435
cbzdon@childcarehelp.com

Phone Numbers

Referral 800-552-5526
815-741-1179
Providers 815-741-1163
Subsidy 800-641-4622
815-741-4622

SDA 6

Serving Cook county

Action for Children

4753 N. Broadway
Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60640
childcare@actforchildren.org

Phone Numbers

Referral 773-769-8000
Providers 773-561-7900
Subsidy 773-564-8800
773-687-4000

SDA 7

Serving Rock Island, Henry, Mercer, Henderson, Warren, Knox, and McDonough counties

Community Child Care Resource & Referral Center

2804 Eastern Avenue
Davenport, IA 52803
mjhuddleston@iowatrain.org

Phone Numbers

Referral 563-324-1302
800-369-3778
Subsidy 563-324-7844
800-923-7844

SDA 8

Serving Bureau, Putnam, La Salle, Stark, Marshall, Peoria, Woodford, Fulton, and Tazewell counties

Child Care Connection

Illinois Central College
One College Drive
East Peoria, IL 61635-0001
ccc@icc.edu

Phone Numbers

Referral 309-690-7300
800-421-4371
Subsidy 309-690-7300
800-301-3304

SDA 9*Serving Livingston, McLean, Ford, and De Witt counties*

Child Care Resource & Referral Network	Phone Numbers
207 W. Jefferson St.	Referral 309-828-1892
Suite 301	800-437-8256
Bloomington, IL 61701	Subsidy 309-828-1892
info@crrn.com	800-437-8256

SDA 10*Serving Iroquois, Champaign, Vermilion, Macon, Piatt, and Douglas counties*

Child Care Resource Service	Phone Numbers
University of Illinois	Referral 217-333-3252
166 Bevier Hall	800-325-5516
905 S. Goodwin Avenue	Subsidy 217-244-6188
Urbana, IL 61801	800-379-7406
ccrs@uiuc.edu	

SDA 11*Serving Moultrie, Coles, Edgar, Shelby, Cumberland, and Clark counties*

Child Care Resource & Referral	Phone Numbers
Eastern Illinois University	Referral 217-581-6698
School of Family & Consumer Sciences	800-545-7439
Klehm Hall	Providers 800-545-7439
600 Lincoln Avenue	Subsidy 217-581-7081
Charleston, IL 61920	800-643-1026
cstld@eiu.edu	

SDA 12*Serving Hancock, Adams, Schuyler, Brown, Cass, Pike, Calhoun, Greene, and Jersey counties*

West Central Child Care Connection	Phone Numbers
WCU Building, Room 610	Referral 217-222-2550
510 Maine Street	800-782-7318
Quincy, IL 62301	Subsidy 217-222-2592
crrinfo@wcccc.com	

SDA 13*Serving Mason, Menard, Logan, Scott, Morgan, Sangamon, Christian, Macoupin, and Montgomery counties*

Community Child Care Connection, Inc.	Phone Numbers
1004 N. Milton Avenue	Referral 217-525-2805
Springfield, IL 62702-4430	800-676-2805
cccc@childcaresolutions.org	Subsidy 217-525-2894

SDA 14

Serving Madison, Bond, St. Clair, Clinton, Washington, Monroe, and Randolph counties

CHASI-Child Care Resource & Referral Program

2133 Johnson Road, Suite 100A
Granite City, IL 62040

Phone Numbers

Referral 800-467-9200
Providers 800-467-9200
Subsidy 800-847-6770

SDA 15

Serving Fayette, Effingham, Jasper, Crawford, Clay, Richland, Lawrence, Marion, Jefferson, Wayne, Edwards, and Wabash counties

Project CHILD: Child Care Resource & Referral

326 Potomac, Suite C
P.O. Box 827
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
prochild@rlc.edu

Phone Numbers

Referral 800-362-7257
Providers 618-244-2210

SDA 16

Serving Perry, Franklin, Hamilton, White, Jackson, Williamson, Saline, Gallatin, Union, Johnson, Pope, Hardin, Alexander, Pulaski, and Massac counties

Child Care Resource & Referral

John A. Logan College
700 Logan College Road
Carterville, IL 62918
crr@jal.cc.il.us

Phone Numbers

Referral 800-232-0908
Subsidy 800-548-5563

Partnership for Quality Child Care

For Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and/or Chicago Department of Human Services (CDHS)-funded Child Care and/or Head Start programs and child care centers with at least 50% of total enrollees using child care subsidy certificates for tuition payment.

The Partnership for Quality Child Care is a public/private child care initiative sponsored by the City of Chicago, McCormick Tribune Foundation and several private foundations to improve the quality of child care available to Chicago's low-income families. The Partnership sponsors the Early Stars program, a campaign to educate child care programs about the benefits of accreditation and how it can help increase the quality of child care. It also assists eligible for-profit and non-profit child care programs to pursue national accreditation.

The Partnership provides facilitators to assist with the accreditation process and post-accreditation follow-up visits. Most child care programs average nine to 12 months to complete the entire accreditation process. The Partnership also provides child care programs in Chicago serving low-income families with funds to cover costs associated with pursuing accreditation, including buying classroom furniture, toys, books, and educational materials; paying accreditation application fees; and making improvements to facilities.



Manager of Accreditation Facilitation
228 South Wabash Avenue, Suite 1000
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Phone: (312) 554-1300
E-Mail: info@pcca-cap.org
<http://www.earlystars.com>

Statewide Accreditation Mentoring (SAM) Project

For all early care and education providers

Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children's SAM Project provides experienced mentors to assist for-profit and nonprofit child care programs in obtaining accreditation through on-site technical assistance and supports free of cost. The SAM Project can also provide financial assistance to pay accreditation fees.



Kathy Howard, SAM Project Coordinator

Phone: (815) 626-8872

E-Mail: howardcc@essex1.com

or

Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children

3180 Adloff Lane, Suite 302

Springfield, IL 62703

Phone: (217) 529-7732

E-Mail: donetta836@illinoisaeyc.org

Chapter 2: Curriculum, Assessment, and Special Needs

What is a Curriculum?

Curriculum plays a vital role in achieving a program's goal of enhancing the school readiness and social competence of young children. Curriculum is a written plan that serves as a road map for implementing a quality child development and education program. Curriculum includes:



- Goals for children's development and learning (what children should know and be able to do);
- Experiences through which they will achieve the goals;
- Roles for staff and parents to help children achieve these goals;
- Materials needed to support the implementation of a curriculum; and
- Sound child development principles and program standards.

What are the Benefits of Implementing a Curriculum?

- *Having a written plan for children's learning goals and developmentally appropriate experiences to support progress toward those goals helps teachers assess children's progress through ongoing assessment.*
- *Curriculum assists staff to accommodate a variety of children's strengths and needs and to stimulate learning across all domains of development: social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and approaches to learning.*

A curriculum is implemented in keeping with program standards and sound child development principles. For example, curricula in Head Start programs implement the Head Start Program Performance Standards. Early care and education programs in Illinois should be guided by the Illinois Early Learning Standards for both infants and toddlers and pre-school-age children. Many of the organizations that sell developmentally appropriate curriculum also offer assessment tools and training in conjunction with the curriculum.

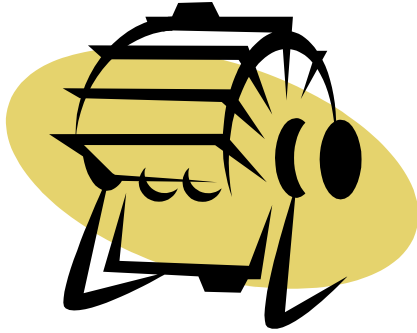
Illinois Early Learning Standards

The Illinois Early Learning Standards, developed by the Illinois State Board of Education, are organized to parallel in content the Illinois Learning Standards for K–12 education. The goal of the standards is to provide teachers and caregivers useful information that is directly needed as part of their daily classroom work. Included in the eight goal areas for learning are standards and benchmarks outlining the skills that children should be able to demonstrate upon kindergarten entry. These standards are being used across all Illinois early care and education programs: child care, ISBE-funded early education programs, and Head Start.

Illinois Birth to Three Program Standards and Quality Indicators & Resource Guide

ISBE has published birth-to-three program standards and quality indicators as the basis for the development, implementation, and evaluation of high-quality birth-to-three programs in Illinois. These standards reflect current knowledge, research findings, and shared beliefs about developmentally appropriate early care and education in the context of programs for infants and toddlers and their families.

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Illinois State Board of Education
Early Childhood Education Division
100 N. First Street, Floor 4
Springfield, IL 62777
Phone: (217) 524-4835
http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/03_standards.htm

Also, use the above contact information regarding Illinois Early Learning Standards Training.

Chicago Public Schools Teacher Resources

The Chicago Public Schools' Office of Early Childhood Education offers a variety of teacher resource handbooks, many of which are aligned to the Illinois Early Learning Standards and Benchmarks, the Chicago Public Schools' Child Assessment Profile and the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework. These include: the Early Literacy Book; the CAP Book to facilitate the recording of observations; the Early Math Resource Handbook; Home Connection regarding the importance of involving parents in their children's education; Think Themes for Dual Language Education Program Teachers; and Virtual PreK Book Lists.



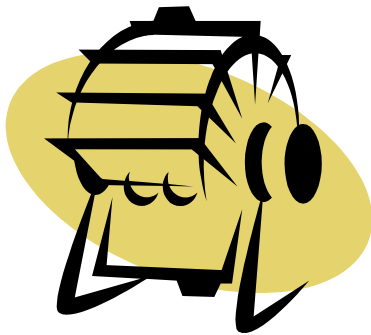
Chicago Public Schools' Office of Early Childhood Education
Early Childhood Education Chief Officer
125 S. Clark Street, 9th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: (773) 553-2010
E-mail: rwhitmore@csc.cps.k12.il.us
<http://www.ecechicago.org>

Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers

For early care and education providers, including child care centers

Carolina Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs (CCITSN)

The Carolina Curriculum is an assessment and intervention program designed for children with mild to severe special needs – one volume is for children birth to 2 years (CCITSN) and one is for children 2 to 5 years (CCPSN). The Carolina Curriculum takes a different approach to intervention than traditional curricula, which usually attempt to teach skills in sequences based on the mean ages at which typically developing children master skills. Instead, CCITSN and CCPSN are each divided into more than 20 teaching sequences across five major domains: cognition, communication, social adaptation, fine motor, and gross motor. Professionals use Assessment Logs to record assessment data and chart children's progress. Each curricular item includes teaching procedures, routine integration strategies, evaluation criteria, and modifications for children with visual, motor, and hearing impairments. The Carolina Curriculum emphasizes family involvement and can be used by professionals in home-, school-, or center-based environments.



Brookes Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 10624
Baltimore, MD 21285-0624
Phone: (800) 638-3775
E-mail: custserv@brookespublishing.com
<http://www.pbrookes.com>

Hawaii Early Learning Profile [HELP® (0–3)]

HELP® (0–3) is a family-centered, curriculum-based assessment for use by professionals working with infants, toddlers, young children, and their families. As a curriculum-based assessment, HELP is not standardized; it is used for identifying needs, tracking growth and development, and determining "next steps" (target objectives). It offers play-based activities and intervention strategies for each skill. HELP is developmentally sequenced, covering 685 skills (birth–3 years) in the six domains: cognitive, language, gross motor, fine motor, social, and self-help. This curriculum-based assessment focuses on the whole child, including the importance of supportive environments and interactions, building on strengths and providing activities for working on specific needs.

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VORT Corporation
P.O. Box 60132-TX
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Phone: (650) 322-8282
E-Mail: custserv@vort.com
<http://www.vort.com/profb3.htm>

Creative Curriculum

Creative Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers is available from Teaching Strategies Inc., a publishing and training company that offers practical, developmentally appropriate curriculum and assessment materials, training materials and services, and parenting resources geared for children from birth – age 8. Teaching Strategies Inc. offers a range of services, including curriculum, assessment tools, and training to successfully implement the curriculum and assessment tools.

[The Creative Curriculum® for Infants and Toddlers](#) is a comprehensive, easy-to-use framework for planning and implementing a quality program, one where building relationships with children is central. The Curriculum outlines what children learn during the first three years; the experiences they need to achieve learning goals; what staff and parents do to help children reach these goals; and the materials needed to support the implementation of the curriculum.



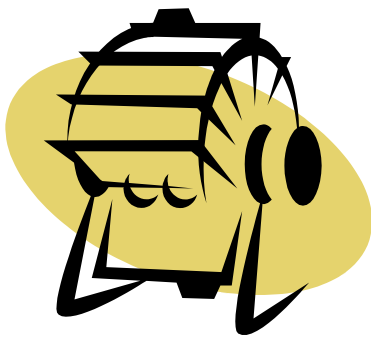
Teaching Strategies, Inc.
5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20016
Phone: (800) 637-3652
E-mail: Info@TeachingStrategies.com
<http://www.teachingstrategies.com>

High/Scope

High/Scope Educational Research Foundation is an independent nonprofit research, development, training, and public advocacy organization with headquarters in Ypsilanti, Michigan. High/Scope promotes high-quality educational programs by training preschool teachers and administrators, developing curricula for infant/toddler, preschool, elementary, and adolescent programs, publishing books, videos, curriculum materials, and assessment tools for educators and researchers, and conducting research.

High/Scope Child Observation Record (COR) for Infants and Toddlers

Meaningful assessment for very young children in child care settings is possible with the High/Scope Child COR for Infants and Toddlers. The Infant-Toddler COR, which is observation based, looks at the whole child from the ages of 6 weeks to 3 years. By providing a complete picture of each infant's or toddler's developing abilities, the COR helps caregivers do a better job of supporting the development of individual children and of planning for the group as a whole. Kits contains all the materials needed for a year's observational assessment of up to 12 children.

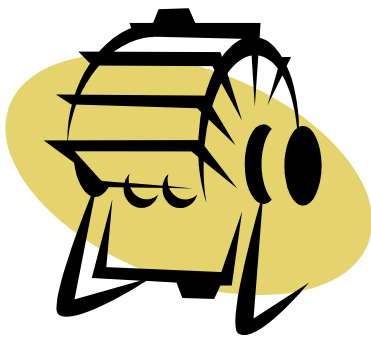


High/Scope Educational Research Foundation
600 North River Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198-2898, USA
Phone: 734-485-2000
E-mail: info@highscope.org
<http://www.highscope.org>

WestEd

WestEd is a research, development, and service agency committed to improving learning at all stages of life – from infancy to adulthood, both in school and out. WestEd helps children enter school healthy and eager to learn; tailors effective assessment strategies for states and districts; works with administrators and teams of school and district leaders to help bring about successful schoolwide change; enhances teachers' career-long professional development; and finds ways for community-based groups to collaborate and solve problems.

WestEd's Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers (PITC) has produced a series of videos, curriculum guides, trainer's manuals, and related materials – all providing easy-to-follow techniques to ensure emotionally secure and intellectually engaging group child care. Videos are available in English, Cantonese, and Spanish. The series is organized into four modules, each containing videos and print materials. WestEd also offers [Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers \(PITC\) Training Institutes](#) for providers and parents.



WestEd
730 Harrison Street
San Francisco, California 94107
Phone: (800) 995-4099
<http://www.PITC.org>

Curriculum for Preschoolers

For early care and education providers, including child care centers

Bank Street

Bank Street College of Education develops projects that address the issues arising from the emerging needs of children and families, from universal literacy to quality child care to the introduction of new technologies into the classroom. In the forefront of curriculum and staff development, the College is engaged in partnership programs with schools, school systems, colleges, universities, and community-based organizations, as well as publishing companies and television/cable networks. The Publications & Media Group of Bank Street College creates and publishes educational materials appropriate for children, teachers and parents, including curricular materials, books, CDs & educational consultation.



Bank Street College of Education
610 West 112th Street
New York, NY 10025-1898
Phone: (212) 875-4680
E-mail: webmaster@bankstreet.edu
<http://www.bankstreet.edu>

Creative Curriculum

Creative Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers, Preschool, and Kindergarten – Grade 3 is available from Teaching Strategies Inc., a publishing and training company that offers practical, developmentally appropriate curriculum and assessment materials, training services, training materials, and parenting resources geared for children from birth – age 8. Teaching Strategies, Inc. offers a range of services, including curriculum, assessment tools, and training to implement successfully the curriculum and assessment tools.

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The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, 4th Edition is designed for early childhood programs serving children ages 3 – 5. Based on a foundation of research, it also meets new requirements for addressing academic content appropriately. The goals and objectives of the 4th edition are linked directly to a valid and reliable assessment instrument—The Creative Curriculum Developmental Continuum—that helps teachers purposefully observe children and use what they learn to plan for each child and the group. In order to ensure effective implementation of the curriculum, educators can use *The Creative Curriculum Implementation Checklist*. The checklist helps administrators evaluate how well the curriculum is being implemented and plan for improvement.

Building The Primary Classroom combines the best elements of classroom management and curriculum content together in one volume. The book guides teachers in setting up the environment and implementing good teaching practices using six strategies: knowing the children you teach; building a classroom community; establishing a structure for the classroom; guiding children's learning; building a partnership with families; and assessing children's learning.

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Creative Curriculum Assessment Resources

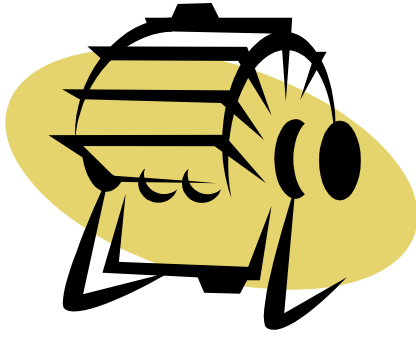
The Creative Curriculum® Developmental Continuum Assessment Toolkit for Ages 3–5 includes all the forms needed to record progress for a class of up to 25 children at three summary checkpoints each year and share information with families: Class Summary Worksheet; Individual Child Profile; and Child Progress and Planning Report. CC–PORT™: The Creative Curriculum® Progress and Outcomes Reporting Tool is a reporting tool that takes the information gathered from the Creative Curriculum Assessment System and produces reports that track and examine the progress of groups of children. CreativeCurriculum.net is a web-enabled, interactive assessment system based on The Creative Curriculum® Developmental Continuum in a secure, online environment that includes all of the elements of The Creative Curriculum® Developmental Continuum Assessment Toolkit. The system fosters parent communication and involvement, assists teachers to plan activities and teaching strategies based on children's developmental profiles, and helps teachers work with children to make progress on the Curriculum's goals and objectives. It includes online forms combined with reporting functions for managing and analyzing data from multiple sites.



Teaching Strategies, Inc.
5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20016
Phone: (800) 637-3652
E-mail: Info@TeachingStrategies.com
<http://www.teachingstrategies.com>

Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP® for Preschoolers)

HELP for Preschoolers (for ages 3–6 years) is a curriculum-based extension of HELP 0–3 for use by professionals with children who are "at risk," who may have developmental delays, or who are "typically developing" preschoolers. It is designed for those working in early childhood settings or by multi-disciplinary teams. As a curriculum-based assessment, it covers 622 developmental skills for ages 3–6 years, structured as a direct extension to the HELP skills 0–3. HELP for Preschoolers focuses on child strengths as well as needs, provides adaptations for assessing each skill, and promotes high expectations for all children. The assessment procedures and instructional activities can be used in classrooms and varied educational settings (individual, group, structured, observational, etc.) by both professionals and paraprofessionals.

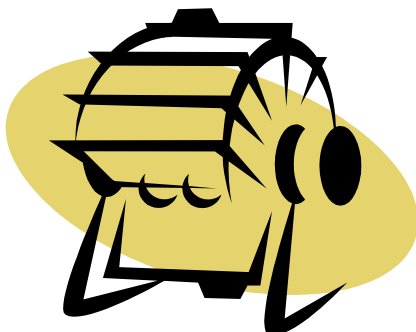


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Palo Alto, CA 94306
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E-Mail: custserv@vort.com
<http://www.vort.com/profb3.htm>

HighReach Butterflies and High Reach Framework

The HighReach Learning Progress Reporting & Evaluation Program (HRL-PREP) is an integrated tracking procedure that links curriculum with on-going observation and evaluation of progress. The HRL-PREP program works with the HighReach Framework and Butterflies curricula, tracking child progress on 54 learning objectives as well as access planning activities by objective and achievement level. The goals of the Butterflies and Framework curricula are defined through a list of 54 HighReach Learning Objectives, which are organized into learning domains and subskills. These objectives tie closely to the Head Start Path to Positive Child Outcomes published in 2001. HRL-PREP helps teachers set individual goals based on the observations gathered about the children. HRL-PREP facilitates planning by providing activities for children to achieve their individual goals and move to the next achievement level.

The HRL-PREP Computer Scoring Assistant is a comprehensive computer tracking system that enables users to create reports for program evaluation accountability. The HighReach Learning training department offers services that help programs implement all of the HighReach Learning curricula, as well as an array of staff development and consulting services on location or at the HighReach Training Center in Charlotte, NC, staff workshops, consulting and technical assistance services, and regional conferences.

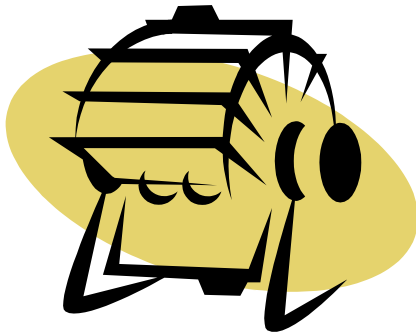


HighReach Learning
P.O. Box 410647
Charlotte, NC 28241-0647
Phone: (800) 729-9988
Customer Service: hrlleads@highreach.com
Training Department: training@highreach.com
<http://www.highreach.com>

High/Scope®

The High/Scope® preschool curriculum/approach is used in both public and private half- and full-day preschools, nursery schools, Head Start programs, child care centers, home-based child care programs, and programs for children with special needs. Originally designed for low-income, "at-risk" children, the High/Scope® approach is now used for the full range of children and has been successfully implemented in both urban and rural settings.

High/Scope® teachers use the Preschool Child Observation Record, (COR) 2nd Edition to evaluate children's developmental progress. As the basis for COR assessment, teaching teams take daily anecdotal notes on children's developmentally significant behaviors during children's normal activities in the program. Teachers discuss these notes during daily team planning sessions. Team members use their anecdotal notes as the basis for completing the COR assessment instrument at regular intervals. To evaluate early childhood programs, High/Scope® administrators use the Preschool Program Quality Assessment (PQA). High/Scope® also offers a range of training and technical assistance services.



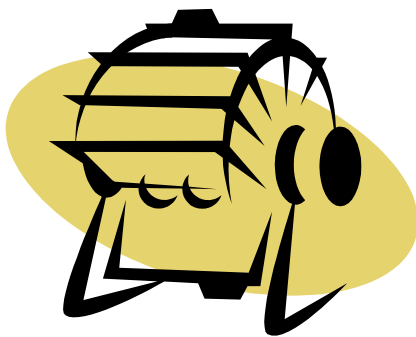
High/Scope Educational Research Foundation
600 North River Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198-2898, USA
Phone: (800) 40-PRESS
E-mail: info@highscope.org
<http://www.highscope.org>

For information on High/Scope's training options:
Phone: (734) 485-2000 Ext. 234
E-mail: training@highscope.org

Scholastic Early Childhood Program

The *Scholastic Early Childhood Program* combines teacher-directed instruction with child-centered explorations and experiences to deepen learning in areas necessary for kindergarten readiness, including early reading and language, math, science, and social skills. Designed to serve as a full-year curriculum, the Scholastic Early Childhood Program components include:

- Curriculum Theme Packs with instructions for preparing and executing curriculum plans;
- Early Learning Kit containing an array of content-area and foundational literacy materials;
- Clifford's Kit for Personal and Social Development introducing children to Clifford's Ten Big Ideas that foster character development and social/emotional growth;
- Big Book Boxes support program themes to enhance early literacy growth and content area knowledge;
- Ongoing Assessment and Curriculum Development guide containing booklets on all areas of child development and learning; and
- Teacher Workshops guide, a series of 12 cooperative workshop sessions designed to facilitate discussions within the teaching team.



The Scholastic Early Childhood Program
557 Broadway
New York, New York 10012
Phone: (800) SCHOLASTIC
<http://www.scholastic.com>

Other Curricular Approaches

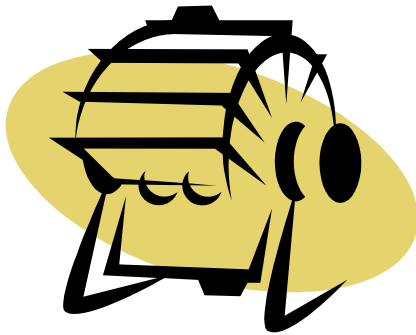
There are many websites offering resources on a variety of early childhood curricular approaches including:



- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Montessori | (start with http://www.montessori.org) |
| Reggio Emilia | (start with http://www.latelier.org/usefullinks) |
| The Project Approach | (start with http://www.bestpracticesinc.net) |

Training on implementation of curriculum and assessment systems

Best Practices is a consulting and training company for early childhood and elementary schools based in Illinois (preschool, prekindergarten, kindergarten and primary grades) founded by Dr. Judy Harris Helm. Services include onsite observations; guided self-assessment of active, engaged learning; training in specific skills such as play intervention or project approach; designing preschool activities, early literacy, and implementation of authentic assessment systems. Workshops, keynote speeches and awareness presentations are also available.



Best Practices, Inc.
10109 Fox Creek Drive
Brimfield, IL 61517
Phone: (309) 446-3322
E-mail: info@bestpracticesinc.net
<http://www.bestpracticesinc.net>

Assessment Tools (also see specific curriculum in this chapter)

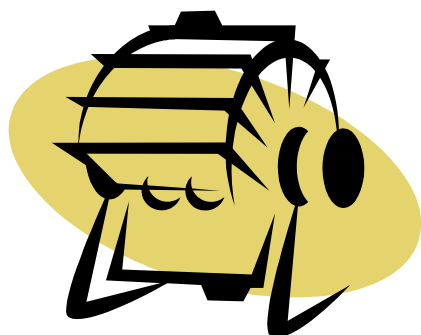
For early care and education providers, including child care centers

What are the benefits of using formal assessment tools?

- Ongoing, curriculum-embedded assessment helps teachers plan learning activities for individual children and for the class as a whole. Assessments guide instruction and support children's progress, helping teachers make adjustments to instruction.
- Assessments help measure child outcomes and document each child's progress on all domains of development (physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and approaches to learning).
- Assessments help teachers inform parents of their child's progress.
- Assessments screen children for developmental delays and disabilities in order to make referrals for special services.
- Program assessments evaluate program quality for both accountability and program-improvement purposes.

The Ounce Scale for Infants and Toddlers

The Ounce Scale is an observational assessment for evaluating infants' and toddlers' development over a period of 3.5 years – from Birth to 3 1/2. Its purpose is twofold: (1) to provide guidelines and standards for observing and interpreting young children's growth and behavior, and (2) to provide information that parents and caregivers can use in everyday interactions with their children. The Ounce Scale provides an interactive system of documentation, monitoring, and evaluation of development for center- and home-based infant, toddler, and preschool child care, Early Head Start programs, and early intervention programs, (including children at risk and/or those with disabilities). The Ounce Scale consists of three assessment elements: an Observational Record, a Family Album, and a Developmental Profile. A User's Guide, Standards for Developmental Profiles, and Reproducible Masters are also available to assist in implementing the Ounce Scale. These tools provide information about infants' and young children's development to family members and caregivers.



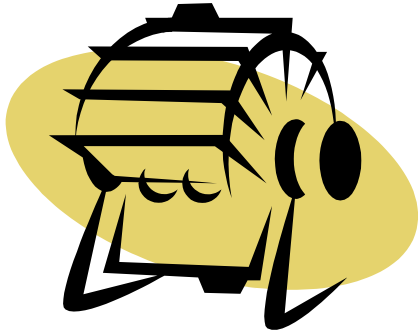
Pearson Early Learning
P.O. Box 2500
135 South Mt. Zion Road
Lebanon, IN 46052
Phone: (800) 552-2259

<http://www.pearsonearlylearning.com/OunceScale.htm>

The Work Sampling System

The Work Sampling System is a validated, research-based observational assessment designed to enhance instruction and improve learning for preschool to grade 6. The Work Sampling System 4th Edition reflects the recent changes in standards and assessment. It focuses on high standards of learning and instructionally meaningful, developmentally appropriate teaching. Work Sampling provides insight into how an individual child learns and targets the following areas: Personal and Social Development, Language and Literacy, Mathematical Thinking, Scientific Thinking, Social Studies, The Arts, and Physical Development and Health.

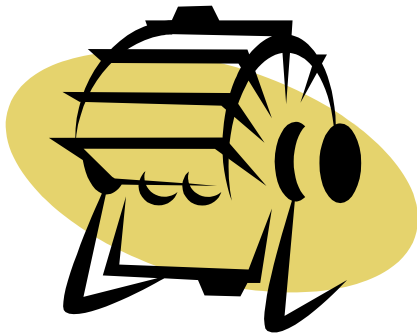
Work Sampling Online helps streamline assessment and outcomes reporting with one easy-to-use online resource. Work Sampling Online provides all of the elements of the research-based Work Sampling System, plus special Internet-only enhancements available from any web-connected computer.



Pearson Early Learning
P.O. Box 2500
135 South Mt. Zion Road
Lebanon, IN 46052
Phone: (800) 874-0914
<http://www.worksamplingonline.com>

Work Sampling Illinois

The Illinois State Board of Education has developed an authentic assessment system aligned with the Illinois Early Learning Standards and the Head Start Performance Outcomes Framework for use by all early care and education teachers. Work Sampling Illinois, the in-classroom, ongoing observational assessment system, is being used extensively in ISBE-funded Prekindergarten classrooms to measure child progress to inform instruction and parents. The Illinois Resource Center offers training, with ongoing professional development to all early care and education providers with hands-on instruction for using the Illinois Early Learning Standards and Assessment System.



Illinois State Board of Education
Early Childhood Education Division
100 N. First Street, Floor 4
Springfield, IL 62777
Phone: (217) 524-4835
<http://www.isbe.net>

For **training on Work Sampling Illinois**, please contact:

Illinois State Board of Education
Early Childhood Education Division
100 N. First Street, Floor 4
Springfield, IL 62777
Phone: (217) 524-4835
<http://www.isbe.net>

Inclusion of Children With Disabilities: Accessing Specialized Services and Supports

What is Inclusion and Why is it Important?

- Inclusion of children with disabilities and their families in early care and education, as well as other community settings, is rooted in the concept of equity. Two central components of inclusion are *access* or enrollment in early care and education, and *participation*, which involves active engagement in activities in settings that promote learning and development.
- Young children with disabilities do not require different activities or experiences for learning to occur. However, they do need specific, individualized supports comprised of evidence-based instructional strategies (e.g. adaptations, individualized instructional strategies, modified curriculum and/or environment, and weaving interventions into routines) to benefit from learning opportunities.
- High-quality early care and education services for *all* children require coordinated efforts across the service delivery spectrum, including child care, general education, special education, health care, mental health, and social services. Collaboration is the key to achieving high-quality inclusive services!

Overview and General Resources

The Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA ensures the right of children with disabilities to special education services and access to a free, appropriate public education as other children. Often, these services can be delivered through collaboration with community-based early care and education providers such as child care and Head Start. Early childhood special education programs for children ages three to five are part of the special education continuum as operated by Illinois public schools. The Illinois Department of Human Services is the lead agency for special education services for *children ages birth to three* offered through the Early Intervention program. ISBE Early Childhood staff also act as liaisons to that Early Intervention program. See **Child Find** to access screening services for young children you believe may have a developmental delay or disability.

Continued on next page

Accessing Special Education Services and Supports

The Illinois State Board of Education website – <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/earlychild.htm>—offers a good overview of resources and services for young children with special needs from birth through age five.

ISBE’s One of Us: Access and Equity for All Young Children Guidebook (2002) is another good general resource about services for young children with disabilities, resources and websites, and serving children with special needs in a range of early childhood settings. It can be ordered through Pamela Reising Rechner, ISBE’s early childhood special education specialist, at preising@isbe.net or (217) 524-4835.

Developmental Screening Resources

Best Practice. Developmental screening is a systematic process used to identify children who may be delayed in their development to determine if further evaluation is necessary. Screening also provides valuable information to parents about their child’s development, and should be a key preventive service that is regularly delivered. Best practice says that developmental screening should be conducted periodically by an appropriately trained individual using an objective tool to screen in all domains of development (cognitive, communication, motor, social-emotional, self help, problem solving and general development).

For screening to be most effective, it should take place in the context of an ongoing relationship where the screener is familiar with the child and the family. The screening process should include: 1) observation and input from parents (household members), child care practitioner observations, 2) administration of a standardized, reliable tool, 3) follow-up with parents regarding the results and 4) making a referral for further evaluation if indicated.

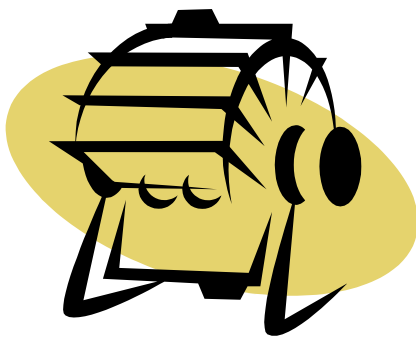
Although many public and private agencies offer developmental screening services and/or training, it is often unclear how these screening services hang together as a delivery “system” that can be systematically accessed by child care providers statewide. The availability of developmental screening services and training offered also appears to vary greatly by locality.

Continued on next page

Several models can be used to deliver developmental screenings. Child care providers can receive training and perform their own screenings. The Illinois Department of Human Services' Bureau of Child Care and Development is currently developing a state-wide training module for child care providers to be delivered through CCR&Rs about how to incorporate developmental screening and follow-up for children ages birth to five in child care settings. Child care providers can also bring in an outside agency or provider to perform screenings or they can work in a collaborative across multiple sites (see **Child Find**).

Child Find

School districts, other early childhood programs, non-public schools, and other community service providers must work together through informed referral networks to identify children who need additional developmental support and to provide information to parents about their child's development. The Child Find project provides screening services and public awareness materials for early childhood programs, school districts and early intervention programs to assist in Child Find activities.

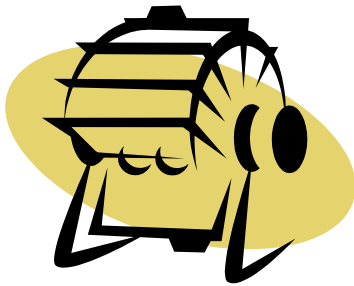


- Phone: Contact your local public school to access Child Find screening services
- Phone: (800) 851-6197 to order Child Find materials
- Phone: (800) 323-GROW (800-323-4769) to refer an infant or toddler under age three or a family to the early intervention services system

Continued on next page

Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC)

DSCC provides Illinois children birth to age 21 who qualify no-cost diagnostic services if it is suspected that an eligible medical condition exists. DSCC can also provide financial assistance if the child has an eligible medical condition that can be improved through medical treatment and the family needs help to afford the treatment.



Central Administrative Office
2815 West Washington, Suite 300
P.O. Box 19481

Springfield, IL 62794-9481

Phone: (217) 793-2350

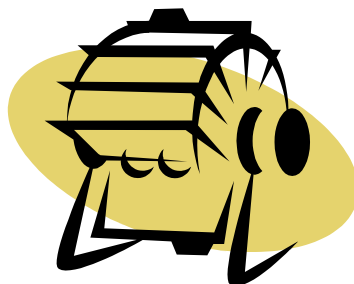
Phone: (800) 322-3722 to find out if a child is medically or financially eligible

<http://www.uic.edu/hsc/dscc>

Chicago Administrative Office
1919 W. Taylor St. (m/c 618)
8th Floor, Room 800
Chicago, IL 60612-3772
Phone: (312) 996-6380

Early Childhood Special Education Services (Three to Five)

Early childhood special education services for 3–5–year–olds are administered by the Illinois State Board of Education and delivered by local school districts in accordance with Part B Section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). It states that children with disabilities should be educated with their typically developing peers in the least restrictive environment. This means that children with disabilities should be educated with other children in typical early childhood settings like child care centers. Often specialized designed instruction and related services are required to address children’s individual development and learning goals. To refer a child for early childhood special education services, use the Child Find process in your community and/or contact your local public school. For more information about special education services for 3–5–year–olds, contact:



Illinois State Board of Education
Early Childhood Education Division
100 N. First Street, Floor 4
Springfield, IL 62777

Phone: (217) 524-4835

E-mail: preising@isbe.net

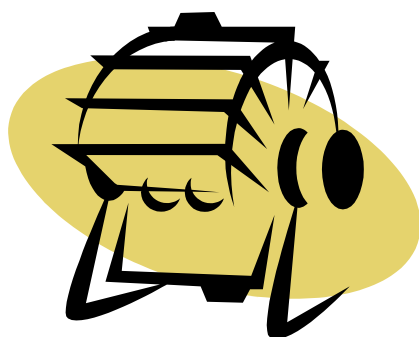
<http://www.isbe.net>

Early Intervention Program (Birth-to Three)

Illinois' Early Intervention program, which is administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services, ensures that families who have infants and toddlers (ages birth to three) with diagnosed disabilities, developmental delays or substantial risk of significant delays receive resources and supports that assist them in maximizing their child's development, while respecting the diversity of families and communities. Early intervention services include, but are not limited to: developmental evaluations and assessments, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language therapy, nutrition services, psychological services and social work services.

There is a statewide, family-centered early intervention services system in place to help eligible children ages birth to 3 years who are in need of early intervention services. There are 25 Child and Family Connection (CFC) agencies in Illinois that are IDHS' regional partners in the Illinois Early Intervention service system. Child care providers should contact their local CFC to assist families to access Early Intervention services, including screening services. The CFC Agency Directory can be found at <http://www.state.il.us/agency/dhs/earlyint/ei01cfcdir.pdf>.

Children eligible for early intervention services must be experiencing developmental delays in one or more of the following areas: cognitive development; physical development, including vision and hearing; language and speech development; psycho-social development; and self-help skills. Children may also be eligible due to diagnosed physical or mental conditions (such as cerebral palsy or Down syndrome) or certain family circumstances that put them at risk of having substantial delays.



Illinois Department of Human Services
Bureau of Early Intervention
222 South College, 2nd floor
Springfield, IL 62704
Phone: 217/782-1981; TDD/TTY: 217/558-6482
Help Me Grow Helpline: (800) 323-GROW (4769)
To order Public Awareness materials: (800) 851-6197
<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/ei>

For a complete listing of Child and Family Connections agencies, go to:
<http://www.state.il.us/agency/dhs/earlyint/eipdfs/ei01cfcdir.pdf>

Other Early Intervention Resources

Children's Services Directory: Provides information about the early intervention system, including access to a variety of public awareness/educational materials, and refers people to early intervention programs and service coordinators in their area. English and Spanish speaking counselors are available to answer calls.

Phone: (800) 323-4769 (voice/TTY)

Early Intervention Clearinghouse: The Early Childhood Intervention Clearinghouse provides library and information services on health, educational and developmental concerns of infancy and early childhood. *The Resource Library* has books and audiovisual materials for loan, reference files of articles, booklets, catalogs, etc. *Clearinghouse Staff* provide answers to specific reference questions, prepare bibliographies, make referrals to other library and information services, publish a free quarterly newsletter, Early Intervention, and are available to present or exhibit at meetings.

Phone: (800) 852-4302;

E-mail: clearinghouse@eosinc.com

Illinois Assistive Technology Project: Provides information about adaptive equipment for all ages.

Phone: (800) 852-5110 (voice/TTY)

Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies: Represents child care providers in service delivery areas (SDAs) throughout the state, providing training and services for child care centers and family child care programs. Each SDA has a team of inclusion leaders and/or local resources to help providers working with special needs children. Phone: (800) 649-1884

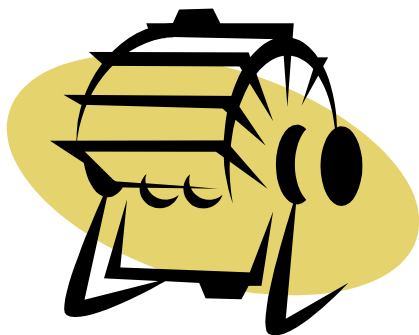
National Center for Latinos with Disabilities: Provides free information about disability issues in Spanish. Phone: (800) 532-3393

National Lekotek Center: Provides information about and resources for children with special needs, including loaning educational toys. Phone: (800) 366-7529

Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities

Services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities (primarily adults) are provided to help individuals with developmental disabilities achieve as much independence as possible. DHS funds over 640 community-based agencies that serve individuals with developmental disabilities and administers 11 state-operated developmental centers. Residential Schools for school-aged children that are approved by ISBE are funded through Individual Care Grants and Purchase of Service agreements.

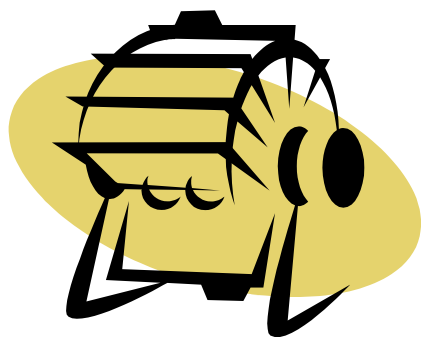
To access services, contact an Independent Service Coordination (ISC) agency in your area. These agencies are the "front door" to Illinois' state-funded developmental disability service system. The ISC agency will perform a Pre-Admission Screening to document that the individual is eligible for the service and that the service is in the least restrictive setting appropriate to his or her needs. Also known as PAS/ISCs, these agencies help develop a service plan tailored to the individual's needs and make referrals to local service providers. To locate a PAS/ISC agency in your area, go to <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/mhdd/dd>, click on Office Locator, and under Step 2, Office Type, select "Developmental Disabilities."



Illinois Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities
100 S. Grand Avenue E
Springfield, IL 62762
Phone Springfield: (217) 524-0260
Phone Chicago: (312) 814-2735
<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/mhdd/dd>

Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD)

The mission of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities is to promote change which ensures that people with developmental disabilities have the same opportunities as others in the community. One of ICDD's areas of emphasis is *Child Care*, with a goal of children and families benefiting from a range of inclusive, flexible child care options, and that child care providers will increase their capacity to successfully serve children with developmental disabilities. The Council makes investments (grants) to a wide variety of organizations and individuals to help improve the lives of people with disabilities and entire communities. Calls for Investments are made throughout the year. For an information packet, contact the Council's Springfield office at (217) 782-9696.



Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

100 W. Randolph, Suite 10-600
Chicago, IL 60601

Phone: (312) 814-2080; (TDD) 312-814-7151

830 S. Spring Street
Springfield, IL. 62704

Phone: (217) 782-9696

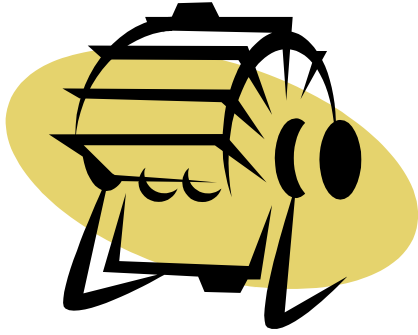
<http://www.state.il.us/agency/icdd>

Project CHOICES/Early CHOICES

Project CHOICES/Early CHOICES (Children Have Opportunities in Inclusive Community Environments and Schools) is funded by the Illinois State Board of Education and helps communities and school districts to develop and expand inclusive options for children and youth with disabilities. These programs work with public school district personnel and other community programs through the public schools, such as child care providers, community preschools, and community colleges.

Early CHOICES offers supports to include children ages 3-5 with their non-disabled peers in typical preschool settings. CHOICES offers support for schools to include students ages 6-21 in their general education classes. Project CHOICES provides technical assistance about inclusion upon request from school districts. Services include providing in-service training, observing/consulting, facilitating meetings, sharing resources, working with building and/or student teams, and other activities upon request.

Continued on next page



Project CHOICES/Early CHOICES
PHONE: (630) 778-4508
<http://www.projectchoices.org>

STARNET (Support and Technical Assistance Regionally)

The STARNET system is funded by the Illinois State Board of Education and provides support and technical assistance to teachers and caregivers of children with special needs. STARNET provides training and technical assistance to early childhood programs and families, responding to requests for support, in-service training and technical assistance, and family education and involvement.

Illinois STARNET Regions (See page 106 in the Professional Development chapter for a STARNET regional map.)

Northwestern Region I and Central Region III

STARNET Project Coordinator
Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood Education
Western Illinois University
27 Horrabin Hall,
Macomb, IL 61455
Ph: (800) 227-7537; (309) 298-1634
<http://www.wiu.edu/starnet>

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Northern Region II

STARNET Project COORDINATOR

The Center

1855 Mt. Prospect Road

Des Plaines, IL 60018

Phone: (847) 803-3565

<http://www.thecenterweb.org>

Southern Region IV

STARNET Project Coordinator

St. Clair County Regional Office of Education

500 Wilshire Drive

Belleville, IL 62223

Phone: (800) 942-7827; (618) 397-8930

<http://www.stclair.k12.il.us>

Chicago Region V

STARNET Project Coordinator

Office of Specialized Services Resource Network

Colman School – Mail Run #42

4655 South Dearborn

Chicago, IL 60609

Phone: 773-535-8607

http://www.cps.k12.il.us/AboutCPS/Departments/OSS/star_net.html

South Suburban/East Central Region VI

STARNET Project Coordinator

Southwest Cooperative/ Braun Education Center

6020 West 151st Street

Oak Forest, IL 60452

Phone: (708) 342-5370

<http://www.swcccase.org>

Other Useful Web Sites

State of Illinois sites

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/earlychi/> (early childhood page within the ISBE)

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/spec-ed/> (special education page within the ISBE)

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/spec-ed/earlychild.htm> (ISBE's early childhood special education page)

<http://www.projectchoices.org> (describes activities of Project Choices; has links to many sites)

<http://www.illinoisearlylearning.org> (provides online assistance to parents of preschoolers)

<http://www.ivpa.org> (describes Illinois Violence Prevention Authority services)

Legislation and Policy

<http://www.dec-sped.org> (Division of Early Childhood)

<http://www.nectas.unc.edu> (National Early Childhood Technical Assistance System)

<http://www.npnd.org> (National Parent Network on Disabilities)

<http://www.ideapractices.org> (resources for understanding provisions and implications of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), with a focus on young children)

<http://www.ideapractices.org/idealinks> (links to many other sites related to implementing IDEA)

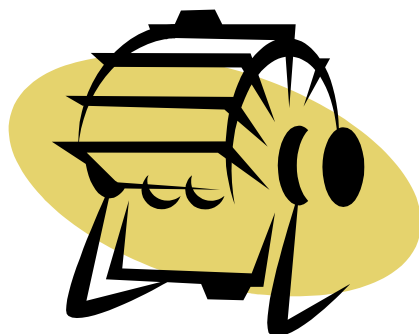
<http://www.ideapractices.org/ILIAD.htm> (general IDEA resource site)

<http://www.cec.sped.org/pp/ideahome.htm> (legislative information and publications)

<http://www.nectas.unc.edu/idea/idea.htm> (information on IDEA in relation to early childhood settings)

Resource Guide: Selected Early Childhood/Early Intervention Training Materials (11th edition, 2002)

This Resource Guide identifies and describes teaching, training, and staff development materials that are good, inexpensive, and readily available to assist you in designing quality pre-service and in-service experiences on working with young children with developmental disabilities. To access online, go to <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/Publications/Rguide/rguide/pdf>. A fully searchable database of the resources is also online at <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~scpp/~resourceguide>.



To order hard copies, contact Frank Porter Graham (FPG) Publications Office
Phone: (919) 966-4221
E-mail: pubs@mail.fpg.unc.edu

For additional information, contact:
Camille Catlett
Frank Porter Graham (FPG) Child Development Institute
CB #8185, UNC-CH
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-8185
Phone: (919) 966-6635
E-mail: camilee@unc.edu

Chapter 3: Family Support and Parental Involvement

Why is Family Support and Parental Involvement Important?

- *Parents are principle architects of their children's development. Reliable research points to the important role of parents in young children's lives – the more extensive the parental involvement in the child's education, the greater success children have in school and later life.*
- *Parents, other family members, and guardians need knowledge and skills to provide developmentally rich environments, interactions, and experiences that promote their children's healthy development. Effective family support and parent education and involvement services can enhance parents' involvement in their children's education.*
- *Programs targeted to helping families acquire the knowledge and skills they need to become effective teachers of young children are typically community-based and combine home visits, distribution of learning materials and activities, parent workshops and peer interactions.*



Most of the resources listed in this chapter offer family support and parent education and involvement services directly to families and to community organizations like child care centers. Be sure when accessing resources that you ask if they provide free or low-cost speakers or trainers who will come to your center to make presentations to families and to staff on different family support and child development topics.

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&R's)

For all early care and education providers and family members

Illinois CCR&Rs work in partnership with parents, business leaders, government officials, higher education faculty and administrators, and early care and education providers to make high quality child care and early education available to Illinois families. CCR&Rs offer parents a range of services and information, including:

- Parenting Workshops;
- Books, toys, and other materials available through lending libraries and Quality Counts mobile vans;
- Consumer education and information on child care options;
- Referrals to child care programs and assistance paying for child care;
- Referral to services for children with special needs; and
- Information on quality indicators.

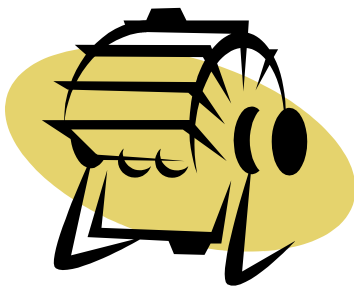


To find out which local CCR&R agency serves your area, go to <http://www.ilchildcare.org>. Click on Quick Links/Find Child Care Now!/Find Your Local CCR&R. Or call toll free 1-877-202-4453 (20-CHILD) and enter your zip code.

Early Childhood Parental Training Programs

Many school districts and community-based agencies offer Early Childhood Parental Training programs for families with children from birth through age five

The Illinois State Board of Education's Early Childhood Education Block Grant supports parental training programs for parents of children 0–5. These programs are designed to help parents develop the skills and confidence they need to foster their children's healthy development and success upon school entry. Programs include activities that require parent–child interactions.



ISBE's Early Childhood Education Division

Division Administrator
100 N. First Street, Floor 4
Springfield, IL 62777
Phone: (217) 524-4835

Chicago Office
100 W. Randolph, Suite 14-300
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: (312) 814-3984

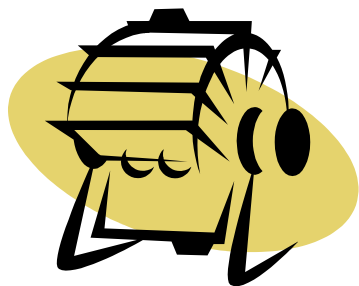
<http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/Default.htm>

Family Support America

For all early childhood practitioners and administrators, parents, and other early childhood stakeholders

Family Support America is the national resource organization for the theory, policy, and practice of family support. Family Support America offers a wide range of services and materials about family support, including training, conferences, and technical assistance; publications (e.g. fact sheets); policy and advocacy efforts; and supports to state and local family support networks and to family resource centers. The National Family Support Mapping Project is creating a national database to locate and collect information on every family support program in the country and to provide comprehensive information on family support programs.

Continued on next page



Family Support America
Information and Referral
20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 1100
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: (312) 338-0900
E-mail: fross@familysupportamerica.org
<http://www.familysupportamerica.org>

Illinois Early Learning Web Site

For all early childhood practitioners and administrators, parents, and other early childhood stakeholders

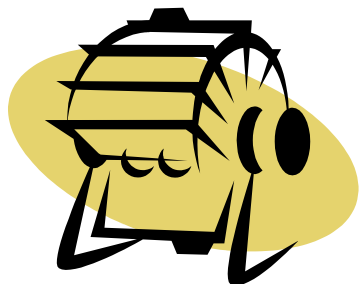
The Illinois Early Learning Project is funded by the Illinois State Board of Education. Its website (<http://www.illinoisearlylearning.org>), provides evidence-based, reliable information to parents and family members, early childhood teachers and caregivers, early childhood special educators, parenting educators, and administrators of early childhood programs. The website offers printable Tip Sheets for caregivers and parents, Frequently Asked Questions (and their responses), a statewide calendar of events for parents and caregivers, links to websites dealing with topics of high interest, and Online Chats.

Continued on next page

The Illinois Early Learning Project website at <http://www.illinoisearlylearning.org> offers Early Learning Tip Sheets on a variety of topics. These materials are intended to be printed out, shared widely, and posted on bulletin boards. These easy-printing, brief tip sheets are available as Web pages and as PDF files. The Tip Sheets are listed alphabetically in the categories below:

- Language Arts
- Math and Science
- Social Science
- Physical Development and Health
- Fine Arts
- Social and Emotional Development
- Parenting and Family Life
- Technology and Media
- Across the Curriculum

Find links to many excellent websites offering family support and parental involvement information and resources by clicking on Illinois Organizations.



Illinois Early Learning Project
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Children's Research Center
51 Gerty Drive
Champaign, IL 61820-7469
Phone: (800) 583-4135
E-mail: iel@ericps.crc.uiuc.edu
<http://www.illinoisearlylearning.org>

Illinois Family Partnership Network

For parents and representatives from diverse parent and family organizations, state agencies and advocate groups

The Illinois Family Partnership Network (IFPN) is working to connect parents to training and skill building opportunities, decision-making groups and boards, and other parents for sharing and networking. IFPN is developing Regional Networks to connect more parents to local resources and opportunities for growth and influence. It is also working with the National Parent Information Network through its special service for Illinois parents and families, NPIN Illinois, to develop a database on resources, training, issues as well as leadership opportunities across the state.

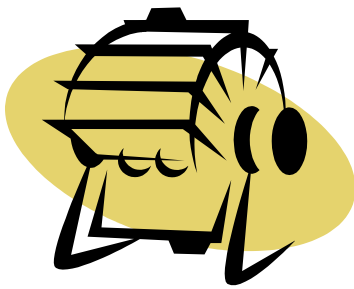


Illinois Family Partnership Network
c/o Voices for Illinois Children
208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1490
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: (312) 516-5559
<http://www.npinil.crc.uiuc.edu/ifpn.html>

Illinois Parents as Teachers

For parents of young children, prenatal to age five

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an early education and support program that begins prenatally and extends to age 5 that is based on the beliefs that parents are the first and most influential teachers of their children and that the early years lay the foundation for children's success in school and life. PAT programs provide timely information on child development, intellectual growth, social development and motor skills, and strengthen parent-child relationships. PAT is designed to provide guidance and support to families of all configurations and life circumstances, including teen parents. Services are adapted to meet individual family needs. The program provides the following services: personal home visits, group meetings, periodic developmental screening, and a Resource Network to access other needed community services.



Academic Development Institute

121 N. Kickapoo Street

Lincoln, IL 62656

Phone: (217) 732-3696

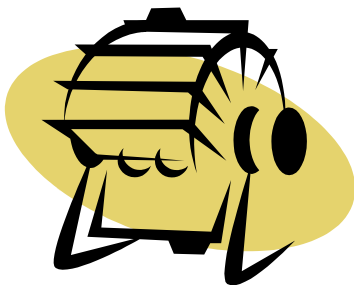
E-mail: <http://www.adl.org>

<http://www.families-schools.org/pat/>

To find a PAT program, sponsor, and contact information, click on the link labeled [Parents as Teachers Programs](#) and go to Illinois.

University of Illinois Extension's Urban Programs Resources Network

The University of Illinois Extension offers many resources related to family support and parent education and involvement in urban, suburban, and rural locations. These include training, fact sheets, newsletters, and a range of other services that you can learn about on their website at <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu>.



University of Illinois Extension Urban Programs Resource Network

Chris Tidrick, Office of Urban Programs

University of Illinois Extension

547 Bevier Hall

905 S. Goodwin

Urbana, IL 61801

Phone: (217) 244-0191

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu>

Chapter 4: Funding Resources

[Government Funding for Early Care & Education](#)

Most federal and state programs recognize the roles that for-profit and nonprofit entities play in providing early care and education services. For-profit child care organizations are currently eligible to access directly the key funding streams that support early care and education programs.



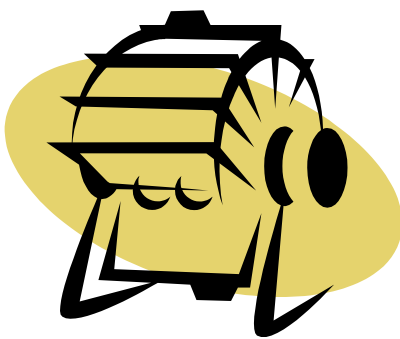
Child Care Subsidy Program Funds

Funding for child care to low-income working families

Child care subsidies, which help low-income families who work or attend school pay for child care, are administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services' Bureau of Child Care and Development. IDHS child care subsidies and a variety of child care quality enhancement and supportive services are funded through a combination of federal Child Care and Development Funds, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program funds, and state funds.

Families can receive a child care subsidy by using certificates or contracts. Under the certificate system, eligibility is determined by one of the 17 Child Care Resource and Referral agencies located throughout the state. Families can choose the child care provider who best fits their individual needs to care for children ages six weeks through age 12 on a full-time, part-time, or before or after school basis. Providers include licensed or license-exempt child care centers and family homes, licensed group child care homes, and in-home and/or relative care. Under the site-administered contract system, families may apply for licensed care from a statewide network of 200 contracted providers. Eligibility is determined on-site by the provider.

For more information, contact your local CCR&R or IDHS' Bureau of Child Care and Development.



*Illinois Department of Human Services
Bureau of Child Care and Development*

Chicago Office
401 S. Clinton, 7th Floor
Chicago, IL 60607
Phone: (877) 202-4453

Springfield Office
400 West Lawrence, 2nd Floor West
Springfield, IL 62762

<http://www.dhs.state.il.us> or <http://www.ilchildcare.org>

IDHS Special Needs/Inclusive Child Care Initiative

For child care centers with site-administered contracts serving children with disabilities

- To ensure inclusion of children with disabilities in child care settings, IDHS provides a 20% special need “add-on” amount to the standard child care subsidy daily rate for children eligible for child care assistance, who have a disability and who attend an IDHS site-administered contract program. Funds pay for supports such as adaptive equipment and specialized training for staff.

IDHS Infant-Toddler Incentive Program

For child care centers serving a high percentage of low-income infants and toddlers with child care subsidies

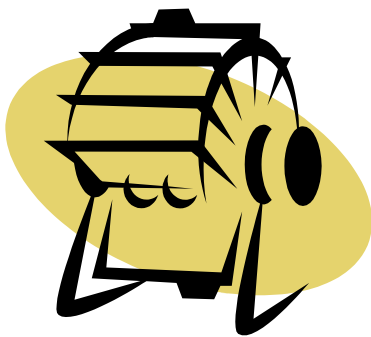
- To increase the number of infant-toddler child care center spaces, IDHS provides a 10% “add-on” amount to the standard child care subsidy daily rate for children who are 2 ½ or younger and receiving child care assistance. To qualify, at least 50% of the children under five in the center must be 30 months or younger and 50% of those children must be eligible for child care assistance.

The Day Care Initiative of the Illinois State Treasurer's Office

Funding to encourage the construction and expansion of licensed child care centers

The Day Care Initiative is designed to encourage the construction and expansion of licensed day care facilities in Illinois by providing access to affordable capital to enhance and expand services. For qualified organizations, businesses and individuals, the Treasurer's Office helps finance projects by providing discounted funds in a participating financial institution that will loan the money at below prevailing interest rates to the borrower for up to five years. Eligible child care projects must meet the following general guidelines:

- The facility must be licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services;
- The new construction or expansion must be for the purpose of day care; and
- The project must have full cooperation from a financial institution that will receive the discounted deposit and will decide on the credit worthiness of the borrower.



Illinois State Treasurer—Day Care Initiative Program
Attn: Charles J. Hagopian, Jr.
100 West Randolph, Suite 4-100
Chicago, IL. 60601
Phone: (312) 814-1793
<http://www.state.il.us/treas/programs/day-care.htm>

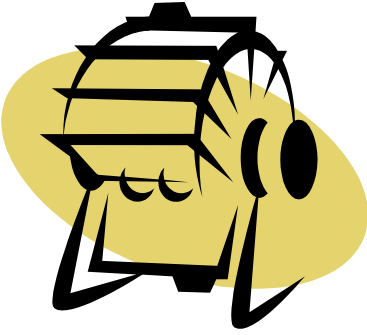
Head Start and Early Head Start Funds

Funding for education, family support, and comprehensive services for children ages birth to five with family incomes at or below the poverty line

Head Start is a federally-administered, primarily center-based program of education, family support, and comprehensive services (health, dental care, and social services) for children with family incomes at or below the poverty line. Early Head Start serves infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. Head Start funds can be used for transportation services to and from Head Start programs.

- Head Start and Early Head Start grantees and delegates (those operating Head Start programs under the direction of a grantee), may be either public or private entities, for-profit, nonprofit, or faith-based organizations, or public school systems.
- If there is a current grantee in a community, that grantee can continue to serve in that capacity until they decide they no longer want to be a sponsoring agency, or unless Head Start funds going to the agency are terminated for cause. If a grantee gives up or loses funding, Head Start funds will remain in the community previously served by that agency and will be awarded to another eligible organization through a competitive process.
- Upon completion of a 5-year contract period, Early Head Start grants are rebid in the same service areas where those services are currently being provided.
- In years when additional funds are available for expanding Head Start services, these funds may go to existing agencies to increase their enrollment of children. Otherwise, these funds will be awarded to new grantees through a competitive process, particularly in a geographic area that requires more service to meet the needs of the population.
- Announcements of current Head Start and Early Head Start funding opportunities are available at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/grant/fundingopportunities/fundopport.htm>
- General information about applying for a Head Start Grant is available at: <http://www2.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/hsb>

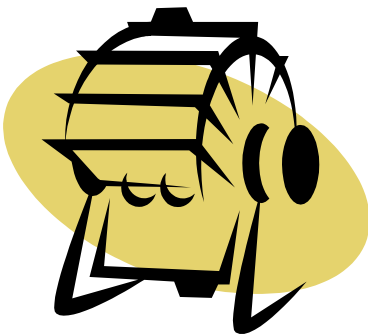
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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Chicago Regional Office
Program Integration and Collaboration Team Administrator
233 N. Michigan Ave, Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: (312) 353-3270
E-mail: kpenak@acf.hhs.gov or ACF@chicago.hhs.gov
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/region5>

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Day Care Funds *Funding for child care services for children who are in DCFS caseloads*

Protective/Family Maintenance Day Care Programs serve children DCFS has found to be abused or neglected or found to be at risk of abuse or neglect. Protective Service Day Care purchases child care for children who have "indicated" reports of child abuse or neglect to prevent or remedy abuse, neglect or exploitation. Family Maintenance Day Care services are provided to purchase child care services to high-risk families whose children are in open DCFS cases to prevent and reduce parental stress that may lead to child abuse or neglect. DCFS pays the same rates as the IDHS Child Care Assistance (subsidy) Program.



Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Office of Child and Family Policy
406 East Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Phone: (877) 746-0829
<http://www.state.il.us/dcfs/daycare>

Illinois State Board of Education Early Childhood Education Block Grant Funds

Funding for early education and family support services to children under age five, particularly for children at risk of academic failure

The Illinois State Board of Education's Early Childhood Education Block Grant (ECBG) supports four early education and family support initiatives for children under age five and their families. The largest of these is the **Prekindergarten (PreK) Program for Children at Risk of Academic Failure**, which served nearly 56,000 three- and four-year-olds in FY03 in preschool classrooms across Illinois and in a variety of school and center-based settings. The PreK Program serves children who, because of their home and community environment, are subject to economic, language, and or other disadvantages and have been determined, through a screening process, to be at risk of academic failure. A disproportionate share of all children considered to be at risk of academic failure come from low income families, including low-income working families, homeless families, families where English is not the primary language spoken in the home, or families where one or both parents are teenagers or have not completed high school. Health problems that occurred during pregnancy, at delivery, and/or are chronic in nature are also often considered as risk factors.

The PreK program consists of two components: 1) a screening component to determine a child's eligibility and 2) an educational program. Applicants can request funding either to conduct screenings and establish an educational program or to establish an educational program only. There is no statewide definition of "at-risk." Community-based PreK program providers can either screen children for risk factors to determine their eligibility for PreK or can work in conjunction with local school districts to screen children for eligibility. See ISBE's Request for Proposals for more information.

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The other three initiatives are **Model Early Childhood Parental Training (birth to three years)**, **Model Early Childhood Parental Training (three to five)**, and **Prevention Initiative for Programs Offering Coordinated Services to At Risk Children and Their Families (birth to three)**. ECBG funds can significantly enhance the quality of child care programs by providing additional resources to meet specified program requirements. Some PreK programs use ECBG funds to pay for transportation to and from PreK services.

In fiscal year 2004, community based entities other than public school districts with experience providing early childhood services became eligible to apply directly to ISBE for birth-to-three and Prekindergarten program grant funds. In addition, a public school district may subcontract with a private school, for-profit or nonprofit corporation or other governmental agency to operate a PreK program.

For-profit and nonprofit organizations located in the city limits of Chicago that are making new applications for Early Childhood Block Grant funds must apply directly to the Chicago Public Schools' Community Partnership Programs Office. (See information below.) For-profit and nonprofit organizations located in the city limits of Chicago that already operate Early Childhood Block Grant funded programs through ISBE should continue to submit their applications directly to ISBE.

Applications for Early Childhood Education Block Grant program funds for providers outside of the City of Chicago are available through the http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/block_grant.htm website during the Spring of each year.

Children ages 3–5 with disabilities or significant delays are served through **Early Childhood Special Education** programs funded through federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and state funds. These services are generally available through school districts.

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ISBE's Early Childhood Education Division



Division Administrator
100 N. First Street, Floor 4
Springfield, IL 62777
Phone: (217) 524-4835

Chicago Office
100 W. Randolph, Suite 14-300
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: (312) 814-3984

<http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/Default.htm>

Early Childhood Special Education

Phone: (217) 524-4835

<http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/earlychild.htm>

Chicago Public Schools' Community Partnership Programs

CPS' Community Partnership Programs consist of the Preschool (Prekindergarten) Subcontracting Program and the Family Life Early Education Program

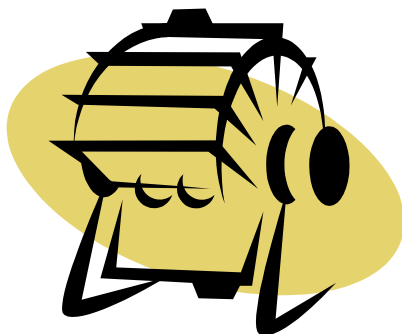
Chicago Public Schools Preschool Subcontracting Program

Funding for preschool services to 3- and 4-year-old children in for-profit or nonprofit child care centers residing in the City of Chicago

The majority of the early childhood programs in the Chicago Public Schools are grant funded, and have specific eligibility requirements. All children must reside within the Chicago Public Schools District 299 boundaries. Go to <http://www.ecechicago.org> for more information.

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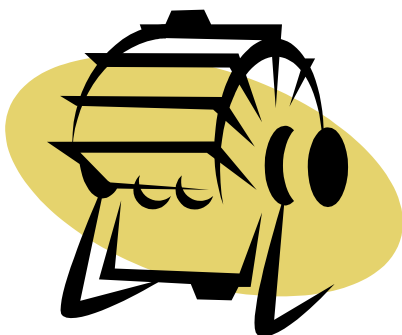
The Preschool Subcontracting Program serves 3- and 4-year old children who, because of their home or community environment, may need extra preparation for kindergarten. The program, funded by the Illinois State Board of Education, provides developmentally appropriate experiences, which promote the readiness necessary for school success. Through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, all licensed child care agencies within the city of Chicago area are invited to submit a proposal that addresses the program format and guidelines. All proposals are reviewed and evaluated. Agency sites and facilities are visited and rated for program implementation. Recommendations for contracting are based on need, whether the area is considered underserved or unserved, and ability to implement best practices. Selected agencies enter into a yearly contractual agreement with the Chicago Board of Education and are encouraged to devise and expand their models to provide quality care and education to support working parents and their families.



Chicago Public Schools, Community Partnership Programs
Preschool Subcontracting Program
400 W. 69th St
Chicago, IL 60621
Phone: (773) 535-3245
E-mail: cryan@cps.k12.il.us
[http://www.ecechicago.org/pages/home/programs/preschool/
Community Partnership Programs](http://www.ecechicago.org/pages/home/programs/preschool/Community_Partnership_Programs)

Chicago Public Schools Family Life Early Education Program (FLEEP)

Funding for parental training services and activities to families and their children under the age of five through community-based organizations



Chicago Public Schools, Community Partnership Programs
Family Life Early Education Program
400 W. 69th St
Chicago, IL 60621
Phone: (773) 535-3245
E-mail: cryan@cps.k12.il.us
[http://www.ecechicago.org/pages/home/programs/preschool/
Community Partnership Programs](http://www.ecechicago.org/pages/home/programs/preschool/Community_Partnership_Programs)

Collaborations to Maximize Funding

Child Care Collaboration Program

Funding to support approved collaborations between early childhood program providers, including child care, Head Start, and/or Prekindergarten

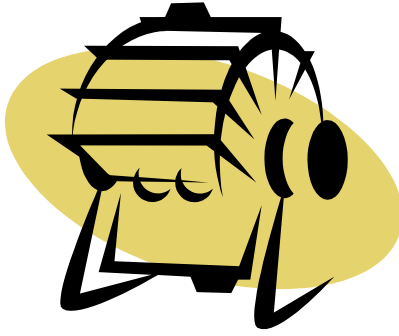
The purpose of the Child Care Collaboration Program is to bring together child care, Head Start, and/or PreK resources to provide high-quality early childhood services through various collaborative models to low-income young children and families by efficiently using state and federal funding streams. Applicants eligible for approval in the Child Care Collaboration Program include: for-profit or non-profit early childhood centers or licensed family child care homes receiving IDHS child care subsidy funding via a contract or the certificate program AND that are engaged in a collaboration with either Early/Head Start or the ISBE Prekindergarten program AND that are serving children in one location. Approved collaboration providers benefit from child care rule exceptions, including annual redetermination of family eligibility; a 90-day job loss grace period; and families maintaining indefinite eligibility for child care when the child or family's participation is part of their current TANF Responsibility & Service Plan.

Application Information

To apply to be an approved child care collaboration program, request an application from:

- Your local CCR&R agency — call, e-mail or fax your request for a Child Care Collaboration Program Application;
- The Head Start State Collaboration Office, by calling (618) 583-2083 or e-mailing dhsd60a2@dhs.state.il.us. You can also fax a request for an application packet to (618) 583-2091; or
- **Download** from the following three web sites:
 - *Illinois Head Start Association* – <http://www.ilheadstart.org>
 - *INCCRRA* – <http://www.ilchildcare.org>
 - *Illinois State Board of Education* – <http://www.isbe.org>.

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Gina Ruther, Director or Gennie Gilmore, Assistant Director
IDHS Head Start Collaboration Office
10 Collinsville Avenue, Suite 203
East St. Louis, Illinois 62201
Phone: 618-583-2083 or 2088
E-mail: dhsd60a2@dhs.state.il.us or dhsd60a4@dhs.state.il.us
<http://www.ilheadstart.org/childcarecollab.html>

Collaborations with Employers

Employers purchase or sponsor child care services for their employees and/or for community families

Many businesses rely on existing child care centers and homes to expand the care and education options of their employees and/or for families in the community where the employer is located. Investment in child care can include a range of financial and other supports to child care centers and home-based networks.

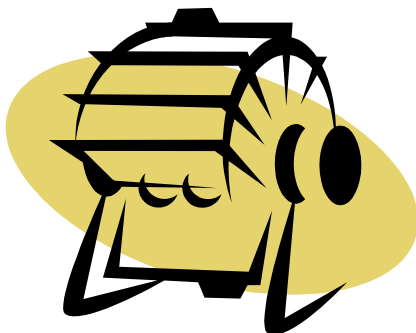
Contact your local CCR&R for ideas and resources. In addition, many collaboration models between employers and child care programs, as well as resources, are described in the handbook, Childcare Solutions for Your Employees (Summer, 2001), published by Chicago Metropolis 2020, 30 W. Monroe St., 18th Floor, Chicago, IL 60603, Phone: (312) 332-2020, website: <http://www.chicagometropolis2020.org>.

Illinois State Board of Education Collaborative Support Teams

To strengthen partnerships between early childhood programs

The Illinois State Board of Education, in cooperation with the IDHS Child Care & Development Bureau and the Head Start State Collaboration Office, offers no cost Collaborative Support Teams (CST) to provide child care, Early Childhood Block Grant, early childhood special education, bilingual education, and Head Start programs with technical assistance and support in forming or strengthening partnerships. The goal is to assist early childhood programs in a variety of ways in order to build a system through collaboration that enables all children to achieve the Illinois Early Learning Standards. CST team members will collaborate with providers on a range of issues, such as:

- Adapting environment for diverse needs;
- Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Blending services and resources;
- Developmentally appropriate practices;
- Funding;
- Legal issues/licensing;
- Parent involvement;
- Professional conduct;
- Program codes/regulations;
- Program continuity;
- Teaming;
- Transitions; and
- Written contracts.

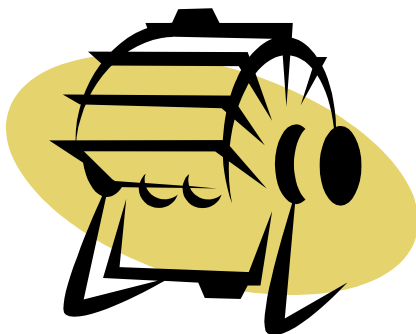


Illinois State Board of Education
Early Childhood Education Division
100 N. First Street, Floor 4
Phone: (217) 524-4835
Program Request Form CST 413 available:
http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/collaborative_team.htm
Submit Program Request by Fax: (217) 785-7849

U.S. Department of Agriculture/Rural Development Offices

Provide financing for and technical assistance to child care facilities in rural communities. For-profit organizations are eligible to apply

The Illinois State Office, located in Champaign, administers USDA Rural Development programs from 24 field office sites across the state. Each site is committed to serving those in search of information and assistance with Rural Development programs and initiatives. Offices provide information about and administer community and business development USDA Rural Development loans, loan guarantees and grant programs. District and Field Offices have application forms and can assist with processing. See <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/il/index.html> for a list of local USDA/Rural Development Offices.



USDA/Rural Development Illinois State Office
Gerald Townsend, Community and Business Program Director
2118 West Park Court, Suite A
Champaign, IL 61821
Phone: (217) 403-6209
E-mail: Gerald.Townsend@il.usda.gov
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/il/index.html>

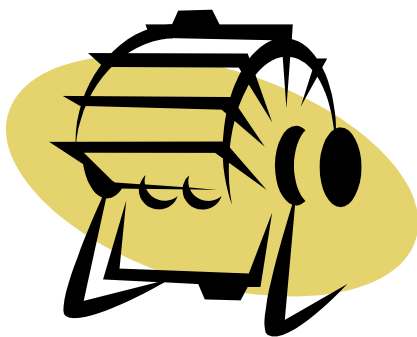
University of Illinois County Extension Offices

Local offices offer a variety of resources on child care and child development

Personnel in University of Illinois County Extension Offices may offer a range of child care and child development resources, including assistance with child care data collection and analyses, research, and community group facilitation. Extension serves both urban and rural areas by offering programs in four broad areas: Family & Consumer Sciences, 4-H Youth Development, Community & Economic Development and Nutrition, and Agriculture & Natural Resources.

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Communities are directly served by Extension Offices' staff in 79 unit offices located throughout Illinois' 102 counties. Extension Offices' educators located in 14 centers across the state and specialists located on the U of I campus provide programming and research for these educational and community-building services. The Office of Extension & Outreach, located in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, provides administrative leadership for U of I Extension and other outreach activities at the college. See <http://www.extension.uiuc.edu> for a list of local Extension Offices.



Statewide Office

Dennis R. Champion, Associate Dean
214 Mumford Hall, MC-710
1301 W. Gregory Dr.
Urbana, IL 61801
Phone: (217) 333-5900
See <http://www.extension.uiuc.edu>

Private Funding for Early Care & Education

For child care centers, although most foundations and philanthropic organizations restrict giving to non-profits or give nonprofits advantage in grant award processes

The Illinois Child Care Information Series is available on the INCCRRA website - <http://www.ilchildcare.org/parentsandpublic/business.htm>. This series includes:

- Illinois Child Care: Developing Center-Based Programs;
- Illinois Child Care: Developing Community-Based Programs;
- Illinois Child Care: A Guide for Family Home Providers; and
- Illinois Child Care: Options for Employers.

Illinois Child Care: Developing Center-Based Programs is a publication that contains useful information for child care centers, including a section, Additional Technical Assistance, which lists on pages 37-40, a variety of resources and technical assistance organizations that assist for-profit child care centers. Grant Proposal Writing Guidelines are described on pages 49-51 of that publication. For information on accessing private funds, refer to *A Guide to Successful Fundraising*, which is published by the Child Care Information Exchange; P.O. Box 2890, Redmond, WA 98073, Phone: (800) 221-2864; Website: <http://www.ccie.com>.

Equipment & Supplies

IDHS Quality Counts Child Care Grant Program

For all child care centers and homes to improve and/or expand child care services

“Quality Counts” grants for materials, equipment, and/or facility improvements to expand and/or enhance the quality of child care services are available to child care centers and family child care homes on a competitive grant basis through local CCR&Rs. Grants to family child care homes range from \$100 – \$1,500. Grants to group family child care homes range from \$100 – \$2,000. The amounts that child care centers can apply for are based on a center’s capacity. The ranges are as follows:

- Centers with a licensed capacity of 1–50 children can apply for a grant of between \$100–\$4,000;
- Centers with a licensed capacity of 51–100 children can apply for a grant of between \$100–\$8,000; and
- Centers with a licensed capacity of 101 or more children can apply for a grant of between \$100–\$12,000.

Contact your local CCR&R for more information.

IDHS Quality Counts Vans

For all child care providers

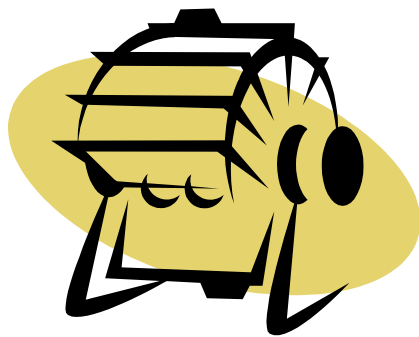
Each CCR&R has a Quality Counts van equipped with child care information, and materials and supplies related to child development, literacy, and health and safety. A variety of lending library items are also on the vans. These vans make on-site visits to child care centers and homes, providing materials and supplies as well as technical assistance and training. Contact your local CCR&R for more information.

Food & Health

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Funding for meals and snacks for low-income children in child care programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Child and Adult Care Food Program provides federal funds for meals and snacks to licensed public and nonprofit child care centers and family and group child care homes and after-school programs for school-age children. Eligible organizations include licensed or approved child care providers or public or nonprofit private schools that provide organized child care programs for school children during off-school hours. For-profit child care centers using Title XX funding to serve 25% or more low-income children are eligible. Illinois is one of 45 states that pool a small amount of Title XX funds with their child care assistance in order to meet the statutory requirements of proprietary participation. Today, over 8,000 proprietary centers nationally participate in the CACFP. The Illinois CACFP is administered by the Illinois State Board of Education.



Child and Adult Care Food Program State Director
Nutrition Programs & Support Services
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
Phone: (217) 782-2491
<http://ltapps2.isbe.net/cnswebcontent/default.htm>



Also see the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Child and Adult Care Food Program website at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Care/CACFP/cacfhome.htm>

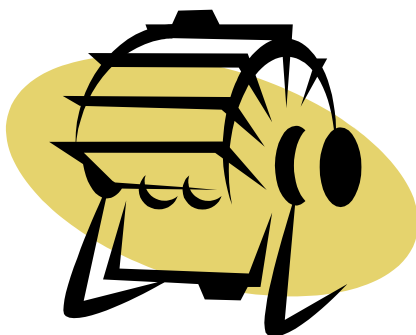
Child Care Licensing

For child care centers and homes

Licensing is the first line of health and safety protection for children in out-of-home settings. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is responsible for setting minimum standards and licensing child care centers, homes, group homes and child care agencies in the state. When a child care center is licensed, it means that a DCFS licensing representative has inspected the facility and that it met minimum licensing requirements. The standards include, but are not limited to, per child minimums for indoor and outdoor space, as well as building safety requirements, health checks for children and staff, criteria for food preparation and nutrition, and provisions for developmentally appropriate programming.

Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers and Homes may be accessed through the DCFS website at <http://www.state.il.us/dcfs/daycare> or by contacting your nearest DCFS office, which are also available on the website. DCFS also provides orientations about the licensing standards.

The Department's field offices are divided into six geographic regions, including Chicago area's Cook North, Cook Central and Cook South Regions, and downstate's Northern, Central and Southern Regions. A map of these areas and contact information follows on pages 66–69.



*Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Office of Child and Family Policy*

Springfield Headquarters

406 East Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Phone: (217) 785-2688
Phone: (217) 785-2509 (Main)

Chicago Headquarters

1921 S. Indiana, 9th Floor
Chicago IL 60616
Phone: (312) 328-2465
Phone: (312) 814-4150 (Main)

E-mail: cfpolicy@idcfs.state.il.us
Website: <http://www.state.il.us/dcfs>

DCFS Field Offices by Region

Northern Region

City	Location	Phone	TDD
Aurora Region	8 East Galena Boulevard, Suite 400	630-801-3400	630-844-3460
Rockford Area	200 South Wyman	815-987-7493	815-987-7255
Aurora	841 North Lake Street	630-844-8400	630-844-8450
DeKalb	760 Peace Road	815-787-5300	815-787-5304
Elgin	595 State Street	847-888-7620	847-888-7655
Freeport	660 W. Stephenson Street	815-235-7878	815-235-9518
Glen Ellyn	800 West Roosevelt Road	630-790-6800	630-790-6873
Joliet	1619 West Jefferson Street	815-730-4000	815-730-4118
Kankakee	505 South Schuyler	815-939-8140	815-939-8176
Rockford Field	107 N. Third Street	815-987-7493	815-987-7255
Round Lake	326 West Rollins Road	847-546-0772	847-546-1585
Sterling	2607 Woodlawn Avenue, Suite 3	815-625-7594	815-625-8944
Waukegan	500 N. Green Bay Rd	847-249-7800	847-249-7804
Woodstock	113 Newell Street	815-338-1068	815-338-1364

Cook County

Cook - North Region

City	Location	Phone	TDD
Chicago	1921 South Indiana	312-328-2584	312-808-5136
Chicago	4055 North Western	773-866-5500	773-866-5507
Chicago	4320 West Montrose Avenue	773-794-5900	773-794-5952

Cook - Central Region

City	Location	Phone	TDD
Chicago	4909 West Division	773-854-0600	773-854-0661
Chicago	3518 West Division	773-292-7700	773-292-7886

Cook - South Region

City	Location	Phone	TDD
Cook South Region	6201 South Emerald	773-371-6007	773-371-6068
Child Protection/Child Welfare Intake	2033 South Indiana	312-808-4000	312-808-4319
Emergency Reception Center	750 West Montrose	773-989-3450	773-989-3458
Emergency Services Intake	810 West Montrose	773-989-3450	773-989-3458
Harvey	15325 South Page	708-210-4950	708-210-3075
Tinley Park	7600 W. 83rd Street	708-633-5300	708-633-5366

Central Region

City	Location	Phone	TDD
Peoria Region	5415 North University Avenue	309-693-5400	
Champaign Area	2125 South First Street	217-278-5500	217-278-5519
Springfield Area	4500 South 6th Street	217-786-6830	217-786-7244
Beardstown	121 East Second	217-323-2286	217-323-2326
Bloomington	401 Dinsmore Street	309-828-0022	309-829-1952
Cambridge	307 W. Center	309-937-1071	309-937-1076
Canton	409 North Main	309-647-0051	309-647-8723
Carlinville	1022 North High Street	217-854-6321	217-854-5409
Carthage	620 N. Wabash	217-347-6668	217-347-3731
Charleston	825-18th Street	217-348-7661	217-348-7683
Clinton	1150 Route 54 West	217-935-8432	217-935-5354
Danville	401 North Franklin St	217-443-3200	217-443-3275
Decatur	2900 North Oakland Avenue	217-875-6750	217-875-6564
Galesburg	467 East Main Street	309-342-3154	309-342-9672
Jacksonville	46 N. Central Park Plaza	217-479-4800	217-479-4835
Jerseyville	109 South State	618-498-9561	618-498-3026
Lincoln	1120 Keokuk Street	217-735-4402	217-735-3113
Macomb	527 East Grant Street	309-837-5411	309-836-1402
Monticello	4020 Bear Lane	217-762-2148	217-762-8365
Ottawa	500 State Street	815-433-4371	815-433-9457
Paxton	2 Lane Drive	217-379-4206	217-379-3498
Pekin	#1 South Capitol	309-347-5978	309-347-6355
Peoria	2001 N.E. Jefferson Street	309-671-7900	309-686-6099
Pittsfield	953 West Washington	217-285-4622	217-285-4815
Pontiac	811 West Cleary	815-844-1551	815-844-1563
Princeton	R.R. 2 Backbone East	815-875-4502	815-872-0690
Quincy	107 N. 3rd Street	217-221-2525	217-221-2531
Rock Island	500 42nd Street., Suite 200	309-794-3500	309-794-3517
Savoy	1806 Woodfield	217-278-5300	217-278-5319
Shelbyville	519 N. Cedar Street	217-774-3213	217-774-5605
Springfield	521 S. 11th Street	217-782-4000	217-524-3167
Sullivan	1213 South Hamilton	217-728-7419	217-728-4414
Taylorville	104 West Spresser	217-824-9849	217-824-3054
Tuscola	209 East Van Allen	217-253-4242	217-253-4374
Urbana	508 South Race	217-278-5400	217-278-5419
Watseka	806 B East Walnut Street	815-432-5218	815-432-5224

Southern Region

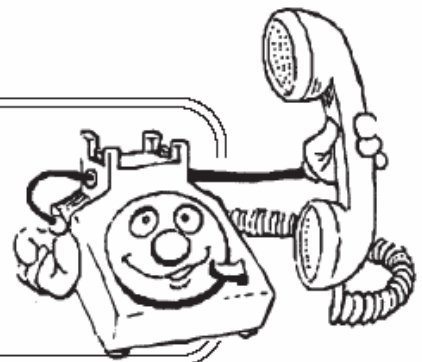
City	Location	Phone	TDD
East St. Louis Region	10 Collinsville Avenue	618-583-2145	618-583-2111
Marion Area	2309 West Main Street	618-993-7100	618-997-9357
Alton	200 North Center	618-466-7014	618-466-8865
Anna	202 1/2 South Street	618-833-4449	618-883-3997
Belleville	12 North 64th Street, Suite 1	618-394-2150	618-394-2154
Cairo	1315 Washington	618-734-0858	618-734-0027
Carlyle	1271C Franklin	618-594-4541	618-594-4568
East St. Louis	5601 State Street	618-398-5910	618-398-5967
East St. Louis Child Protection	10 Collinsville Avenue	618-583-2116	618-583-2111
Effingham	401 West Industrial Avenue	217-347-5561	217-347-2940
Fairview Heights	10251 Lincoln Trail	618-394-2123	618-394-2144
Granite City	2021 Johnson Road	618-876-8986	618-876-9011
Harrisburg	24 E. Raymond	618-242-6556	618-242-6695
Marion	107 Airway Drive	618-993-8639	618-997-5834
Metropolis	200 W. 5th St.	618-524-2428	618-524-3597
Mt. Vernon	3405 Broadway	618-242-6556	618-242-6695
Olney	1102A South West Street	618-393-2979	618-392-3195
Salem	219 East Schwartz	618-548-7300	618-548-7304
Sparta	202 West Jackson	618-443-4317	618-443-4870
Wood River Child Protection	1403 Vaughn Road	618-452-2128	618-259-8406

DCFS Information and Referral - ILLINOIS **312-793-3500**
 Find a DCFS caseworker or employee, DCFS department or office, or DCFS division statewide.

DCFS Abuse/Neglect Hotline **800-25-ABUSE**

**Business Office
 As of August 2002*

**Call the DCFS Advocacy Office of
 Children and Families
 800-232-3798
 with questions about policy, procedure,
 or help in obtaining services for children.**



Illinois Healthy Child Care Initiative

Provides child care providers with access to a variety of nursing consultant services

The Illinois Healthy Child Care Initiative supports collaborations between CCR&Rs and county health departments to support a public health nurse consultant at each CCR&R site and Cook County Satellite Office. Nurse consultants assist with health outreach, train child care providers, and consult with centers and homes.

Contact your local CCR&R for more information.

Nursing Services

For licensed child care centers

DCFS Day Care Licensing Standards require that child care centers serving infants and toddlers have a licensed physician, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or licensed physician's assistant with training in infant care to instruct child care staff in the proper health care of infants and toddlers. The person shall visit the facility to observe the child care techniques of the staff and provide in-service training. Visits shall be at least weekly during the permit period and monthly thereafter.



Illinois Association of School Nurses (IASN)

The Illinois Association of School Nurses (IASN) maintains job listings and certified school nurses seeking positions. IASN's Matchmaker Committee maintains lists of certified school nurses and school nurse interns who are seeking jobs. The list is published once or twice each year in the IASNewsletter, and is available at <http://www.iasn.org/serv03.htm>. IASN can also match employers with retired school nurses who are interested in consultant positions.



IASN Matchmaker Co-Chairpersons:

Lynn Rochkes by phone at (217) 562-3931 or e-mail: lrochkes@hotmail.com

Karen Fink by phone at (847) 746-1032 or e-mail: karenaf@attbi.com

Marian Myers, IASN Executive Secretary

1110 White Rock Drive

Dixon, IL 61021

Phone: (815) 652-5218

E-mail: iasn@grics.net

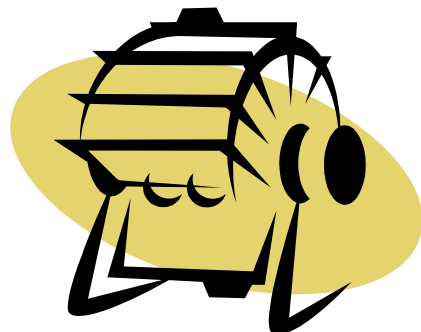
<http://www.iasn.org>

Local County Public Health Departments

Local health departments develop and administer programs and services that are aimed at maintaining a healthy community. They also work with other community organizations to assure that needed services and programs are available. Among the services and programs available through local health departments are vision/hearing testing (preschool and school-age children), well-baby clinics, immunizations, communicable disease investigations, health awareness information, dental sealants, case management, health screenings (blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol and other chronic diseases).



You can contact your local public health department by going the Illinois Department of Public Health website at <http://www.idph.state.il.us/local/map.htm>. Click on your region of the state or the map for a list of local health departments and contact information. You can also contact:



Illinois Department of Public Health

535 West Jefferson Street

Springfield, Illinois 62761

Phone (217) 782-4977

E-mail: mailus@idph.state.il.us

<http://www.idph.state.il.us>

(Information on local health departments can be accessed by clicking on Local Health Departments under L in the A-Z Topics list)

Chapter 5: Illinois Policy & Advocacy Organizations

Why is Advocacy & Involvement in State & Local Policy Development Important?



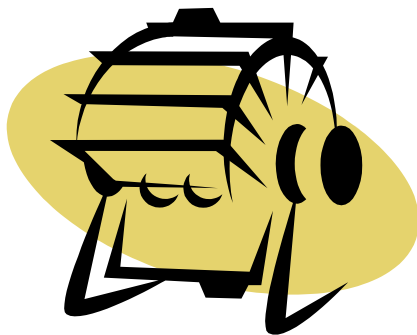
- Children do not vote and they do not make campaign contributions. So, children and their families need advocates who constantly speak about their needs and concerns in the political process.
- Building public will for increased investments in child care and early education is critical and your input does make a difference. Elected officials take notice when you write personal letters or e-mails, call, visit or attend community meetings to express your concerns.
- Providing legislators and other policy makers with information on issues and the impact of pending legislation or policies ensures that they are exposed to the practical implications of laws and policies.

[Illinois Early Childhood Advocacy and Policy Organizations](#)

Illinois has a rich array of early care and education advocacy organizations and system-building initiatives. The organizational websites listed below provide linkages to many Illinois and national advocacy and early childhood policy and system-building organizations and initiatives.

Action for Children (formerly Day Care Action Council of Illinois)

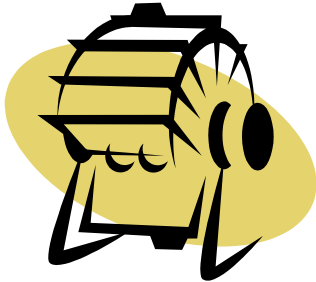
Action for Children is a membership organization of individuals affiliated with child care centers, family child care homes, and others who are committed to advancing the quality and accessibility of early care and education to enable children to develop to their fullest potential and to offer essential support for families. Action for Children educates and collaborates with parents, providers, policymakers, and the public. Their website provides information and updates on critical policy issues related to child care, helps parents find child care, and lets parents know about financial assistance for which they may be eligible.



Action for Children
4753 N. Broadway, Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60640
Phone (773) 561-7900
<http://www.actforchildren.org>

Chicago Metropolis 2020

Chicago Metropolis 2020 grew out of efforts by The Commercial Club of Chicago— a membership organization of leading area business and civic leaders—to ensure the preeminence of the Chicago metropolitan region in the 21st century. One of its program areas is early childhood education. This program brings together a coalition of business leaders, elected officials, and early childhood advocates to promote broad access to affordable and high-quality educational programming.



Chicago Metropolis 2020
30 West Monroe Street, 18th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: (312) 332-2020
E-mail: info@cm2020.org
<http://www.chicagometropolis2020.org>

Chicago Safe Start

Chicago Safe Start is a new federally funded, five-year initiative to prevent and reduce the impact of exposure to violence on children ages zero to five. Chicago Safe Start will serve young children and those responsible for their care by preventing violence before it occurs and minimizing the consequences of violence when it does occur. Chicago Safe Start will achieve this through system-wide and community-based prevention and response services that link and build on existing resources, engage additional resources, and build enduring partnerships among all parties involved with young children. The result will be safer and healthier families, and, when needed, sustained and appropriate responses to the ongoing needs of children exposed to violence. Chicago Safe Start is a collaboration of community residents and organizations, city and state agencies working together to serve young children and those responsible for their care by preventing violence before it occurs and minimizing the consequences when it does.



Chicago Safe Start
Chicago Department of Public Health
Office of Violence Prevention
333 South State Street - Room 200
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Phone: (312) 745-0381
<http://www.chicagosafestart.net>

Citizen Action/Illinois

Citizen Action/Illinois is the state's largest public interest organization. Citizen Action/Illinois believes that everyone has the right to the best possible education and fully supports the system of public education, from pre-school through university levels. Citizen Action/Illinois works in coalitions at the state and federal level to support increased funding for afterschool programs in Illinois and nationally.



Citizen Action/Illinois
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 605
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: (312) 427-2114
<http://www.citizenaction-il.org>

Community Legislative Information Service of Illinois (LEGInfo)

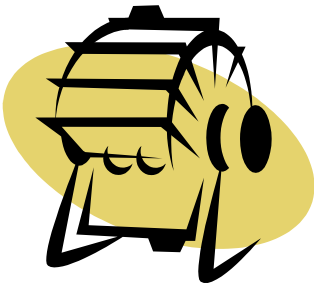
LEGInfo is a multi-issue, statewide, consortium dedicated to providing Illinois citizens with the tools and information they need to participate in the state legislative process. The objective of LEGInfo.org is to encourage citizen engagement and knowledge of the legislative process.



Community Legislative Information Service of Illinois
2125 West North Ave.
Chicago, IL 60647
Phone: (773) 278-4800 ext.156
E-mail: info@leginfo.org
<http://www.leginfo.org>

Fight Crime, Invest in Kids

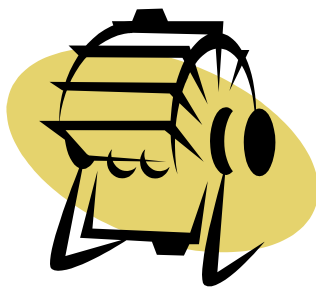
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Illinois is comprised of police chiefs and leaders of police officer organizations, sheriffs, state's attorneys, and crime survivors advocating for public investments in programs that cut crime by helping kids get the right start in life, including quality early education and care, after-school programs, good schools, and child abuse prevention. Their website offers resources and publications on the prevention of crime and violence, and presents studies and polls related to crime and children. There is a section of the website devoted to Illinois.



Fight Crime, Invest in Kids
220 South State Street, Suite 1215
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: (312) 986-9200
<http://www.fightcrime.org>

Health and Disability Advocates

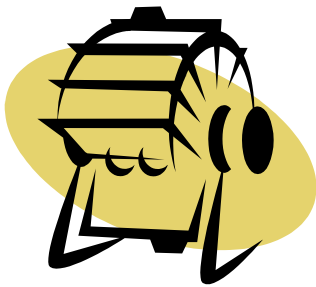
Health and Disability Advocates (HDA) seeks to assure that low-income children and adults with disabilities lead secure and dignified lives. HDA advocates for policies that promote economic security and provide health coverage.



Health and Disability Advocates
205 W. Monroe, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: (312) 223-9600
E-mail: hda@hdadvocates.org
<http://www.hdadvocates.org>

Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children

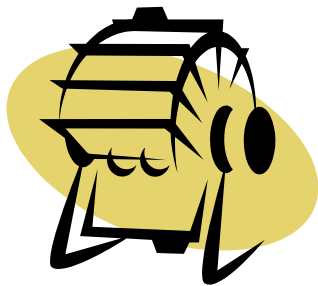
Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children is a professional organization dedicating to improving the development of comprehensive early education opportunities for children from birth through age eight. All Illinois affiliates including the largest affiliate, the Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children, work to improve professional practice and working conditions in early childhood education and to build public support for high quality early childhood programs.



Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children
3180 Adloff Lane, Suite 302
Springfield, IL 62703
Phone: (217) 529-7732
E-mail: Donetta836@illinoisaeyc.org
<http://www.illinoisaeyc.org>

Illinois Head Start Association

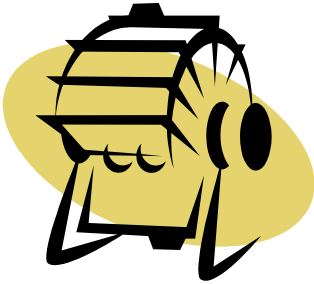
The Illinois Head Start Association (IHSA) represents and provides services for all members of the Head Start community. The Association is committed to enhancing the development of children, empowering families and strengthening communities. In the advocacy role, the Association speaks in a unified voice and acts on issues affecting children and families. It provides professional development opportunities for members through conferences and institutes and awards training scholarships annually. The Association assumes a statewide leadership role for providing information, developing local and state partnerships and empowering members to be community leaders.



Illinois Head Start Association
1903 E. Forestview Drive
Mahomet, IL 61853
Phone: 217-586-7600
E-mail: director@ilheadstart.org
<http://www.ilheadstart.org>

Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

The Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics works to promote the right of all children to live happy, safe, and healthy lives, and to ensure children receive quality medical care from pediatricians. Their site includes policy statements and outlines their legislative priorities.



Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
1358 W. Randolph, Suite 2 East
Chicago, IL 60607-1522
Phone: 312-733-1026
E-mail: info@illinoisAAP.org
<http://www.illinoisAAP.org>

Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition

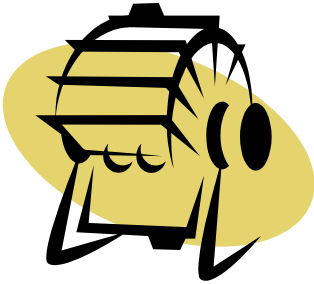
The Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition is dedicated to promoting and improving the health and well-being of children and families through advocacy, education, community empowerment, and policy development. Their site includes policy agendas, legislative issues, and an opportunity to sign up for advocacy alerts.



Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition
1256 W. Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60622
Phone: (312) 491-8161
E-mail: ilmaternal@ilmaternal.org
<http://www.ilmaternal.org>

League of Women Voters of Illinois

The League is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



League of Women Voters of Illinois
P.O. Box 2391
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138-2391
(630) 469.7058
E-mail: lwv@glen-ellyn.net
<http://www.glen-ellyn.com/lwv>

Ounce of Prevention Fund

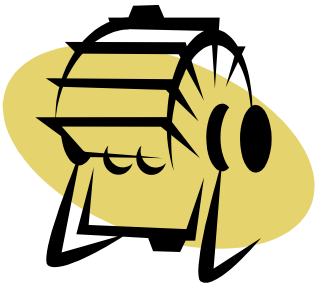
To promote the healthy development of babies, children, adolescents and families, the Ounce of Prevention Fund: develops programs and provides services to young children and their families; offers extensive training to staff who work with children and families at community agencies throughout Illinois; conducts research and evaluation to better understand “what works;” and advocates for public policy changes that better serve all children and families.



Ounce of Prevention Fund
Kids Public Education and Policy Project (Kids PEPP)
122 S. Michigan, Suite 2050
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: (312) 922-3863
E-mail: info@ounceofprevention.org
<http://www.ounceofprevention.org>

PSO/Illinois' Child Care Association

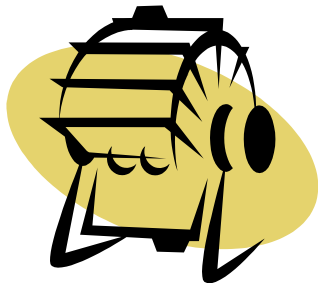
PSO/Illinois' Child Care Association is a statewide organization that bring the concerns of licensed for-profit child care centers and providers to legislators and policymakers. Members receive legislative information, regulatory updates and are offered opportunities for networking and professional development through conferences and mailings.



PSO Illinois' Child Care Association
310 E. Adams
Springfield, IL 62701
Phone: (877) 912-4222
E-mail: psaicca@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.psaicca.org>

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois

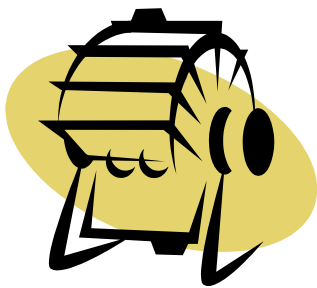
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Its programs contribute to strong, healthy families in the following ways: helping to prepare and support parents so that they can better care for their children; educating parents, grandparents, neighbors, babysitters, and others about situations that can be harmful to children; and raising concern about child abuse and neglect among all citizens.



Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
528 South 5th St., Suite 211
Springfield, IL 62701
Phone: (217) 522-1129
<http://www.childabuse-il.org>

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

With a goal of moving low-income people permanently out of poverty, the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law represents low-income individuals in legal cases with broad policy implications and engages in policy development and advocacy before legislative and administrative bodies. It also monitors and analyzes developments in laws, regulations, and policies and provides training and information to clients, service providers, policymakers, and other advocates. Early care and education is a priority area for the Center. Their website features legal research, recent news about poverty, and Illinois resources.



Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
111 N. Wabash, Suite 500
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 263-3830
<http://www.povertylaw.org>

Voices for Illinois Children

Voices for Illinois Children is a statewide non-partisan, citizen-based advocacy group that works with families, communities and policymakers to ensure that all children grow up healthy, nurtured, safe and well educated. Through public education, research, and coalition-building, Voices generates support from civic, business, and community leaders for cost-effective and practical proposals to improve the lives of Illinois children. Their homepage contains information about their policy work and community advocacy.



Voices for Illinois Children
208 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1490
Chicago, IL 60604-1103
Phone: (312) 456-0600
E-mail: info@voices4kids.org
<http://www.voices4kids.org>

Women Employed

Women Employed is a membership organization dedicated to the economic advancement of women. Women Employed is a leader in national, state, and Chicago-area efforts to expand employment opportunities, reduce barriers to higher-wage occupations, and enable low-income women to move toward self-sufficiency. Collaborating with employers, training providers, educators, and public officials, the organization is pursuing opportunities to improve women's career mobility and earnings through improved private and public sector policies and programs.



Women Employed
111 N. Wabash, 13th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: (312) 782-3902
E-mail: info@womenemployed.org
<http://www.womenemployed.org>

Work, Welfare and Families

Work, Welfare and Families is a statewide coalition of over 200 organizations dedicated to improving the well-being of low-income Illinois families through advocacy and dialogue. Their website includes summaries of legislation affecting low income families,



Work, Welfare and Families
166 West Washington, Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: (312) 658-0225
E-mail: wwf@workwelfareandfamilies.org
<http://www.workwelfareandfamilies.org>

For links to the organizational websites listed below, go the Ounce of Prevention Fund's website at <http://www.ounceofprevention.org>. Click on Policy and Advocacy and then Policy and Advocacy Links. Scroll down to State and Federal Agencies.

State and Federal Agencies

Contact Your Elected Officials

Illinois General Assembly

Office of the Governor

The U.S. Senate

The U.S. House of Representatives

The White House

Search Federal and State Legislation:

LegInfo

Thomas

Illinois State Agencies:

State of Illinois Website

Department of Children and Family Services

Department of Human Services

Department of Public Aid

Department of Public Health

State Board of Education

Federal Agencies:

U.S. Department of Education

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Health Resources and Services Administration

Maternal and Child Health Bureau

Bureau of Primary Health Care

Administration for Children and Families

Head Start Bureau

Children's Bureau

Office of Family Assistance

Child Care Bureau

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Chapter 6: Professional Development

Why is Professional Development Important?

- *A growing body of research finds that positive school readiness results for young children are directly linked to the formal education, specialized training, job tenure, and compensation of teachers, administrators, and other early childhood practitioners.*
- *Policymakers increasingly understand the links between teacher quality and compensation, access to high-quality early care and education programs, and better developmental outcomes for children.*
- *Obtaining formal degrees and credentials are the key to earning higher wages and greater respect for early childhood professionals.*



WHAT IS A CREDENTIAL?

Credentials are awarded to individuals who have successfully demonstrated their knowledge and skills in areas identified as critical to the early care and education profession. Through a series of indicators, including education and experience, credentials are awarded to practitioners who document their competence in nurturing and educating young children.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF OBTAINING A CREDENTIAL?

- *Practitioners with credentials often command higher pay and better benefits. Credentials help individuals move up the career ladder and acquire increased responsibility.*
- *A credential signals that an individual has completed specialized training associated with developmentally appropriate practice in the early care and education field.*

Credential Assistance Funds for Individuals

For early care and education practitioners

Credential Funds to assist child care practitioners obtain credentials are available through your local CCR&R. Funds can be used for many activities, such as training and credential fees. Funds are available at your local CCR&R. Priority is given to individuals working in programs serving 25% or more publicly funded children receiving IDHS Child Care Program subsidies.



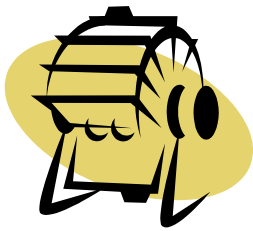
Contact your local CCR&R to receive a Credential and Accreditation Funds application.
Phone: (877) 202-4453 to locate your local CCR&R or visit <http://www.ilchildcare.org>. Click on Find Your Local CCR&R. Enter your zip code or your county to find which local CCR&R agency serves your area.

Much of the information in this section comes from Pathways to Professional Growth, published by INCCRRA, July 2003.

Certified Child Care Professional (CCP)

For center child care practitioners

The CCP credentialing program is designed to recognize an individual's achievements as a child care professional, including training, experience, and the development of a portfolio. Recognition of individual achievement is granted through awarding of the CCP to those candidates who have a high school diploma or the equivalent and meet the national standards of professional expertise established by the National Child Care Association (NCCA) and the Professional Standards Council. Candidates advance through the credentialing process at their own pace and are supported by a mentor. The Professional Standards Council awards credentials to successful candidates.



Certified Child Care Professional

1016 Rosser Street

Conyers, GA 30012

Phone: (800) 543-7161

E-mail: nccaasc@mindspring.com

<http://www.nccanet.org>

Or contact your local CCR&R for more information.

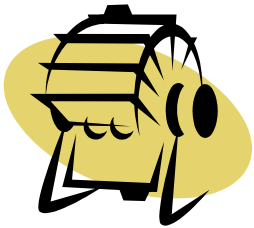


COST: \$495 Assessment Fee, which includes the services of a mentor or Field Counselor. Contact your local CCR&R or the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Project at (800) 863-0499 for funds to help with this cost.

Child Development Associate (CDA)

For home and center child care practitioners

The CDA is a national program to credential child care professionals who document their ability to meet national standards of care and education for young children and families. CDA candidates document their child care experience and skills through a professional resource file, parent questionnaires, and completing 120 training hours in eight different content areas. Candidates advance through the credentialing process at their own pace. The CDA credential is awarded to individuals working in three child care settings: 1) Center-based, for which candidates receive endorsements to work with infants and toddlers or preschool children; 2) Family Child Care; and 3) Home Visitor.



Council for Professional Recognition
2460 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009-3575
Phone: (800) 424-4310
E-mail: webmaster@cdacouncil.org
<http://www.cdacouncil.org>
Or contact your local CCR&R for more information.



COST: \$19 Start-up Packet
\$325 Assessment Fee
Contact your local CCR&R or the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Project at (800) 863-0499 for funds to help with this cost.

Early Childhood Teaching Certificate (Type 04)

Certification for teachers of children ages birth through Grade 3 required for the State Prekindergarten program

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) awards Initial, Standard and Master early childhood education teaching certificates. A Type 04 teaching certificate is required for teachers in any State PreKindergarten Program. All persons who seek an Initial or Standard certificate must have completed an approved teacher preparation program or an approved program in another state for a comparable certificate or they must have a valid early childhood, elementary, secondary or special certificate issued by another state. Tests required for Type 04 certification include the Basic Skills Test, a Content Knowledge Test, and an Assessment of Professional Teaching. Persons seeking to teach in special education programs at the early childhood level must meet the early childhood special education approval requirements.



The Illinois State Board of Education
Teacher Certification
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777
Phone: (800) 845-8749 for Teacher Certification
(866) 238-2738 for Certificate Renewal
E-mail: certification@isbe.net
<http://www.isbe.net/teachers/Documents/ec.htm>

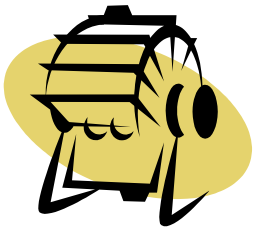


COST: The fee for each test is \$60. In addition to the fee per test, examinees will be assessed a registration fee of \$25 per test administration. Additional information about the Illinois Certification Testing System, including study guides and registration information, may be found at <http://www.icts.nesinc.com>

Early Intervention (EI) Credential

For Early Intervention (Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) Program providers

Illinois' Early Intervention program provides services, resources, and supports to families with infants and toddlers, ages birth to three, with diagnosed disabilities, developmental delays or substantial risk of significant delays, to assist them in maximizing their child's healthy development. An Early Intervention (EI) credential is required of all qualified practitioners who bill for services under the Illinois Department of Human Services' Early Intervention Program. It is not a license. The EI Credential, awarded for a 3-year period, requires at least two semester college hours or the equivalent (30 clock hours or Continuing Education Unit [CEU] credit hours) in each of the four core knowledge content areas. Upon application for a new or renewed credential, providers are required to obtain a total of 30 hours of continuing professional education over the



Provider Connections
Western Illinois University
27 Horrabin Hall
1 University Circle
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL 61455
Phone: (800) 701-0995
Website: <http://www.wiu.edu/providerconnections>

To register for Early Intervention Training, contact United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago at <http://www.illinoiseittraining.org> or by phone at (708) 444-8460, Ext. 23.

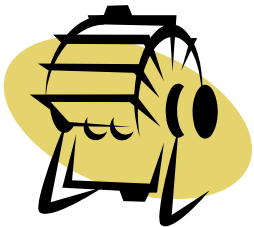


COST: Free

Illinois Director Credential (IDC)

For early care and education administrators

The Illinois Director Credential (IDC) is a voluntary credential recognized as a standard to measure the management and leadership capabilities of early care and education directors. It also serves as a symbol of individual professional achievement. An individual can obtain the IDC either by completing an approved program at a college or university or by completing a portfolio and documenting a degree, experience and professional contributions. The Illinois Director Credential is awarded at three levels. An individual must have attained an Associate Degree for Level I, a Baccalaureate Degree for Level II and a Master's or other advanced degree for Level III. At each level, the candidate must demonstrate through coursework and experience a strong foundation in early childhood and school age care and education, as well as basic business and management theories and practices through completed coursework. Additionally, the director must demonstrate competency in leadership through professional contributions made to the field beyond the scope of daily management activities.



Illinois Director Credential Program
Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies
(INCCRRA)
207 W. Jefferson Street, Suite 503
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: (800) 649-1884
E-mail: idc@ilchildcare.org
<http://www.ilchildcare.org>



COST: \$25 Direct Route Application Fee
\$200 Direct Route Evaluation Fee
\$300 Direct Route Assessment Fee
\$50 Entitled Route Application Fee
Contact your local CCR&R or the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Project at
(800) 863-0499 for funds to help with these costs

National Administrator Credential (NAC)

For child care center directors

The NAC, awarded by the National Child Care Association, offers directors an opportunity to receive 40 clock hours of high-quality, relevant, college-level education in five days. The training focuses on financial, staff, and program management. The NAC textbook is divided into competency areas geared toward child care center directors. Participants are expected to complete complex projects and reading assignments between classes. The credential is valid for two years and can be kept current with continuing education.



The National Administrator Credential
National Child Care Association

1016 Rosser Street

Conyers, GA 30012

Phone: (800) 543-7161

E-mail: nccaasc@mindspring.com

<http://www.nccanet.org>

Or contact your local CCR&R for more information.



COST: \$500 Tuition

Contact your local CCR&R for grant funds to help with this cost.

What is Program Accreditation?

Accreditation is a voluntary process that provides child care centers, family child care homes, and school age programs the opportunity to examine their services based on recognized standards of high quality. The purpose of accreditation is to offer professional recognition and consumer distinction to providers who meet high standards of quality child care through their consistency and dedication. The process involves a self-study conducted by practitioners, a validation visit from the professional accrediting organization, and a final decision made by a commission that reviews the information from applicants and validators.

What are the Benefits of Program Accreditation?

- *Provides parents with an independent measure of program quality.*
- *Provides a process for child care centers and homes to evaluate their programs in relation to professional standards and parents' expectations.*
- *Can lead to higher rates of reimbursement in tiered reimbursement systems.*

Accreditation Assistance Funds for Programs

For early care and education programs

Accreditation Funds to assist child care programs obtain accreditation are available through your local CCR&R. Funds can be used for many activities, such as accreditation fees, mentoring, and consultations. Applications for Accreditation Funds are available at your local CCR&R. Priority is given to programs serving 25% or more publicly funded children receiving IDHS Child Care Program subsidies.



Contact your local CCR&R to receive a Credential and Accreditation Funds application.

Phone: (877) 202-4453 to locate your local CCR&R or

go to <http://www.ilchildcare.org> and click on Find Your Local CCR&R.

Enter your zip code or your county to find which local CCR&R agency serves your area.

National Association for Child Care Professionals Accreditation (NACCP)

For child care centers

The accreditation process developed by NACCP promotes professionalism and program quality, and respects individual program autonomy and philosophy. It has been designed to be user-friendly, with easy to understand directions and processes. Self-study materials guide programs toward optimal early care and education practices.



National Accreditation Commission

NACCP

P.O. Box 90723

Austin, TX. 78709-0723

Phone: (800) 537-1118

E-mail: admin@nccp.org

<http://www.naccp.org>

Or contact your local CCR&R for more information.



COST: \$550-\$1,000 (based on enrollment)

Contact your local CCR&R for grant funds to help with this cost.

Accreditation is granted for 3 years. Submission of annual report is required to maintain good standing.

National Association for the Education of Young Children Accreditation (NAEYC)

For child care centers, preschools, and school-age programs

The National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, a division of NAEYC, administers a national, voluntary, professionally sponsored accreditation system to help raise the quality of care and education programs. The child care and education program engages in an extensive self-study process based on the Academy's Criteria for High Quality Early Childhood Programs. At present, the accuracy of the self-study is verified during a site visit by a team of trained volunteer validators. A commission reviews the validation and self-study results and grants accreditation for a 3-year period.

Continued on next page

NAEYC is currently in the process of reinventing its accreditation system. New program standards and accreditation criteria should be ready for programs beginning the self-study process by the end of 2004. Although transition tasks are already underway, the future system will become fully operational in 2005. Please check the NAEYC website for more information.



National Academy of Early Childhood Programs

NAEYC

1509 16th Street, NW

Washington D.C. 20036-1426

Phone: (800) 424-2460, Ext. 11360

E-mail: academy@naeyc.org

<http://www.naeyc.org>

Or contact your local CCR&R for more information.



COST: \$575-\$1,250 (based on enrollment)

Contact your local CCR&R for grant funds to help with this cost. Accreditation is granted for 3 years. Submission of annual report is required to maintain good standing.

The Council on Accreditation (COA)

For early care and education programs

The Council on Accreditation (COA) is an international, independent, non-profit child- and family-service and behavioral healthcare accrediting organization. COA's accreditation process is designed to facilitate organizational improvement by evaluating an organization against best-practice standards comprised of organizational and management standards and service standards, including the full array of child and family services. The self-study process takes between 4-8 months and involves participatory self-evaluation and change, where needed. Each organization is visited by a peer review team. Most organizations complete the entire accreditation process within 12 months.

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The Council on Accreditation
Director of Accreditation Programs
120 Wall Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10005
Phone: 866-262-8088
E-mail: coainfo@coanet.org
<http://www.coanet.org>



COST: Fees Vary. Contact The Council on Accreditation for more information. Accreditation is granted for 4 years. Requires annual submission of the Maintenance of Accreditation Report.

National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)

For child care centers

The NECPA system is a streamlined, user-friendly approach to accreditation. The NECPA accreditation process examines program areas such as professional development, work environment, outdoor environment, developmental program, parent and community involvement, and administration. It begins with a self-assessment and improvement plan, which the center implements. A volunteer peer verifier follows up with an on-site visit. The National Accreditation Council studies the results of the assessment, reviews the verification, and grants accreditation.



NECPA Commission
126C Suber Road
Columbia, SC 29210
Phone: (800) 505-9878
E-mail: necpa@aol.com
<http://www.necpa.net>
Or contact your local CCR&R for more information.



COST: \$1,150-\$1,450 (based on enrollment)
Contact your local CCR&R for grant funds to help with this cost. Accreditation is granted for 3 years. Requires satisfactory annual reviews.

National School-Age Care Alliance Accreditation (NSACA)

For school-age care programs

The National School-Age Care Alliance is a professional support network promoting quality programs for children and youth during their out-of-school time. The accreditation is a process that recognizes safety and the quality of care, as well as the opportunity to help assure long-term stability and quality of care for school age children.



National School-Age Care Alliance

1137 Washington Street

Boston, MA 02124

Phone: (617) 298-5012

E-mail: staff@nsaca.org

<http://www.nsaca.org>

Or contact your local CCR&R for more information.



COST: \$15 Standards Book

\$150 Self-Study Kit

\$750 Application and Visit Fee

Contact your local CCR&R for grant funds to help with this cost. Accreditation is granted for 3 years. Submission of annual report required to maintain status as in good standing.

What are Professional Development Support Programs?

What are the Benefits?

Professional development support programs increase the education, compensation, retention, and recognition of early care and education professionals in child care centers and in the early childhood field. They reward staff for attaining education and for longevity on the job. These programs assist with the costs of higher education and training and provide career goals and pathways for growth.

Great START Wage Supplement Program

For licensed center staff and family child care providers

Great START (Strategy to Attract and Retain Teachers) supports the professional preparation and stability of the early care and education workforce through wage supplements awarded every six months. Wage supplements are paid directly to the eligible individuals who have education above minimum Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) licensing requirements and who retain employment in their current licensed child care program.



INCCRRA
207 W. Jefferson Street, Suite 503
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: (866) 697-8278 (MYSTART)
E-mail: greatstart@ilchildcare.org
<http://www.ilchildcare.org>
Or contact your local CCR&R for more information.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Illinois Scholarship and Compensation Program

For licensed and license-exempt center staff and family child care providers

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Illinois scholarships, which are currently funded as a public/private partnership between child care centers and homes, individual participants, and the Illinois Department of Human Services' (IDHS) Child Care program, are designed to increase the formal educational levels of child care center directors, teachers, teaching assistants, and family child care practitioners. T.E.A.C.H. pays up to 80% of the cost of college tuition, travel, books, and release time for child care practitioners who obtain more education, with priority given to individuals working in centers with 25% of their enrollment in the child care subsidy program. Practitioners may pursue coursework leading to a CDA, CCP, Illinois Director Credential, Associate Degree, or Bachelor Degree in the field of early education/child development.



INCCRRA
799 Roosevelt Road, Number 6-311
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Phone: (800) 863-0499
E-mail: teachinfo@ilchildcare.org
<http://www.ilchildcare.org>

Illinois Apprenticeship Program

For entry-level early care and education professionals

The Illinois Apprenticeship Program assists entry-level early childhood aides, assistant teachers, and family child care providers in their movement along a career path. Apprentices receive wage increases as they complete 30 semester hours of college coursework and on-the-job-learning under the guidance of an onsite mentor. Those who complete the program become certified Registered Apprentices. Apprentices are being recruited in communities demonstrating strong community collaborations.



INCCRRA
207 W. Jefferson Street, Suite 503
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: (800) 649-1884
<http://www.ilchildcare.org>

What are Statewide Training Opportunities?

What are the Benefits?

The statewide training opportunities in early care and education described below are available through a variety of organizations. They are offered for various types of credit, including in-service hours, clock hours, Continuing Education Units (CEUs), Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs), and college credit.

- *Children's learning and development depends upon the training and educational qualifications of their teachers.*
- *Training assists teachers to deliver sensitive, appropriate services and create effective, responsive learning environments for young children.*
- *Ongoing training helps staff and early care and education programs meet child care licensing requirements, teacher certification requirements, etc.*

Center for Early Childhood Leadership

For early childhood administrators

The Center for Early Childhood Leadership, a part of National-Louis University's College of Education, is dedicated to enhancing the management skills, professional orientation and leadership capacity of early childhood administrators through training, technical assistance, research, and public awareness. The Center hosts training events throughout the year to improve the knowledge and skills of early childhood program directors. Current initiatives include the Director's Technology Training program; Management Institutes; the May Leadership Connections Conference; Taking Charge of Change, a year-long leadership and management training program for child care center directors; and The Next Step, an advanced leadership training for seasoned early childhood professionals.

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The Center for Early Childhood Leadership
Training Coordinator, National-Louis University
6310 Capitol Drive
Wheeling, IL 60090
Phone: (800) 443-5522 ext. 7703
E-mail: eeisenberg@nl.edu
<http://www2.nl.edu/twal/contactus.htm>

Early Childhood Career Advisor Trainings

For seasoned early childhood professionals

The Center for Early Childhood Leadership and the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies have joined forces to create a professional growth opportunity for early childhood leaders. The Next Step training builds coaching and mentoring skills to prepare participants to become early childhood Professional Growth Advisors and counselors for the Illinois career development system. Upon successful completion of the training, coursework, assignments, and approval by the Illinois Director's Credential (IDC) Commission, participants will serve as Professional Growth Advisors and maintain a caseload of 2–5 IDC applicants each year. Annual stipends are paid for the work. Application forms are required.



Training Coordinator
The Center for Early Childhood Leadership
National-Louis University
6310 Capitol Drive
Wheeling, IL 60090
Phone: (800) 443-5522, ext. 7703
E-mail: eeisenberg@nl.edu
<http://www2.nl.edu/twal/training/current/ns.htm>

Head Start and Early Head Start Program Training

The Illinois Head Start Association (IHSA) is committed to enhancing the development of children, empowering families and strengthening communities. IHSA provides professional development opportunities for all early care and education programs, and plays a leadership role in developing partnerships. The IHSA sponsors statewide training events for Head Start programs as well as other ECE providers (including for-profits) and parents, including its annual statewide conference in January. The IHSA website contains an updated calendar of training events and is a great source of information about Head Start and Early Head Start in Illinois and nationally.



Illinois Head Start Association
1903 E. Forestview Drive
Mahomet, IL 61853
Phone: (217) 586-7600
E-mail: director@ilheadstart.org
<http://www.ilheadstart.org/calendar.html>

Head Start State Collaboration Office

For all early care and education practitioners and administrators

The Head Start State Collaboration Office is a federal–state partnership that supports and encourages collaboration with Head Start, Early Head Start, and various other stakeholders at the state and local levels in the following priority areas: education & child care; professional development; health; community services; family literacy; homeless services; disabilities; and welfare. The Head Start State Collaboration Office works to educate the larger community about Head Start & Early Head Start; provide information and ideas to support partnerships; and conduct and participate in statewide planning to move Illinois toward an integrated system of services for low–income children & families. For–profit providers are eligible to access all training resources offered through this office.

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Illinois Department of Human Services Head Start State
Collaboration Office
Gina Ruther, Director and Gennie Gilmore, Assistant Di-
rector
IDHS Head Start Collaboration Office
10 Collinsville Avenue, Suite 203
East St. Louis, Illinois 62201
Phone: 618-583-2083 or 2088
E-mail: dhsd60a2@dhs.state.il.us or
dhsd60a4@dhs.state.il.us
<http://www.ilheadstart.org/collaboffice.html>

HeadsUp! Reading Illinois

For early care and education professionals and parents

HeadsUp! Reading is a national distance learning course that provides early childhood teachers, practitioners, and parents with the tools to enhance the reading, writing, and thinking skills of young children. Taught by nationally recognized instructors, the course is designed to ensure that teachers provide the most effective literacy experiences for young children. HeadsUp! Reading participants can often obtain Continuing Education Units, Continuing Professional Development Units, in-service hours or clock hours.

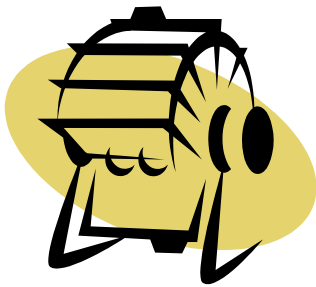


INCCRRA
207 W. Jefferson Street, Suite 503
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: (800) 649-1884
E-mail: hur@ilchildcare.org
<http://www.ilchildcare.org>
Or contact your local CCR&R for more information.

Illinois Early Intervention (EI) Training

For early childhood practitioners in Illinois, particularly early intervention professionals

The Illinois Early Intervention Training Program provides training opportunities for early intervention professionals in Illinois. Many of these trainings may be helpful for early care and education practitioners. Trainings are organized by the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Chicago funded through a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Early Intervention. An EI Training Calendar, newsletter, and web links are available at the <http://www.illinoiseittraining.org> website.



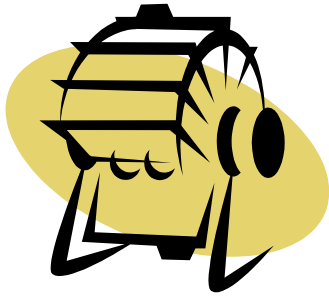
Illinois Early Intervention Training
Ted Burke, Director
7550 W. 183 Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477
Phone: (708) 444-8460 Ext. 23
E-mail: lgimble@ucpnet.org
<http://www.illinoiseittraining.org>

Illinois Resource Center: Early Childhood Professional Development

For early care and education practitioners and administrators, with priority for those working in ISBE-funded Prekindergarten and other birth-to-five programs

Through the cooperative efforts of the [Illinois State Board of Education](#) (ISBE) and the [Illinois Resource Center](#), the following services to professionals working with infants, young children and their families in Illinois are offered: 1) a statewide comprehensive staff development program designed for early care and education personnel, with priority for those working in ISBE-funded Prekindergarten and other birth-to-five programs; 2) a clearinghouse for identifying peer support, consultation services and other educational resources; and 3) an early childhood resource library that houses a large collection of children's literature, classroom materials, and professional resources. A course catalogue of training opportunities is available, including training on the Illinois Early Learning Standards and the Work Sampling Illinois Assessment process.

Continued on next page



Illinois Resource Center
Early Childhood Professional Development Coordinator
1855 Mt. Prospect Road
Des Plaines, IL 60018
Phone: (847) 803-4381
E-mail: bmichalski@thecenterweb.org
<http://www.thecenterweb.org>

Illinois Trainers Network (ITN)

For early care and education professionals

In partnership with your local CCR&R, the Illinois Trainers Network can provide quality, accessible, and affordable training for your staff or community. Participants may receive in-service hours for training on a wide variety of topics, including using Creative Curriculum for infants and toddlers and preschoolers, foundations of Child Care, SpecialCare (how to effectively serve children with disabilities), and Red Cross First Aid and CPR. Center directors can contact your local CCR&R Training Coordinator for specific training events or INCCRRA for trainers who might come to your site or other community locations. These services are offered at low- or no-cost.



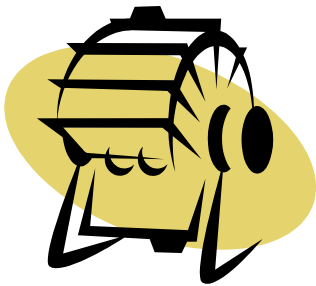
Contact your local CCR&R for trainers and trainings available in your area. See pages 6-11 of this guide for CCR&R agency contact information.

Illinois Trainers Network
207 W. Jefferson Street, Suite 503
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: (800) 649-1884
<http://www.ilchildcare.org>

STARNET

For early care and education practitioners and administrators, with priority for those working in ISBE-funded Prekindergarten and other birth-to-five programs

Illinois STARNET provides a variety of opportunities for personal and professional growth for those working in early care and education settings with young children, ages birth – 8, with an emphasis on children with special needs. STARNET, operated through a grant awarded by the Illinois State Board of Education, provides training workshops and conferences; technical assistance and consultation; linkages and networking; and funding opportunities and resources regionally to the early childhood community in Illinois.

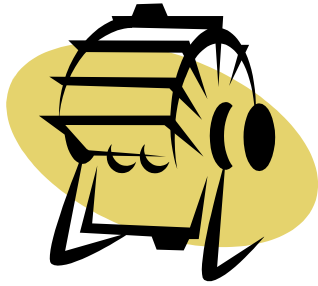


Northwestern Region I and Central Region III
STARNET Project Coordinator
Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood Education
Western Illinois University
27 Horrabin Hall,
Macomb, IL 61455
Ph: (800) 227-7537; (309) 298-1634
<http://www.wiu.edu/starnet>

Northern Region II
STARNET Project Coordinator
The Center
1855 Mt. Prospect Road
Des Plaines, IL 60018
Phone: (847) 803-3565
<http://www.thecenterweb.org>

Southern Region IV
STARNET Project Coordinator
St. Clair County Regional Office of Education
500 Wilshire Drive
Belleville, IL 62223
Phone: (800) 942-7827; (618) 397-8930
<http://www.stclair.k12.il.us>

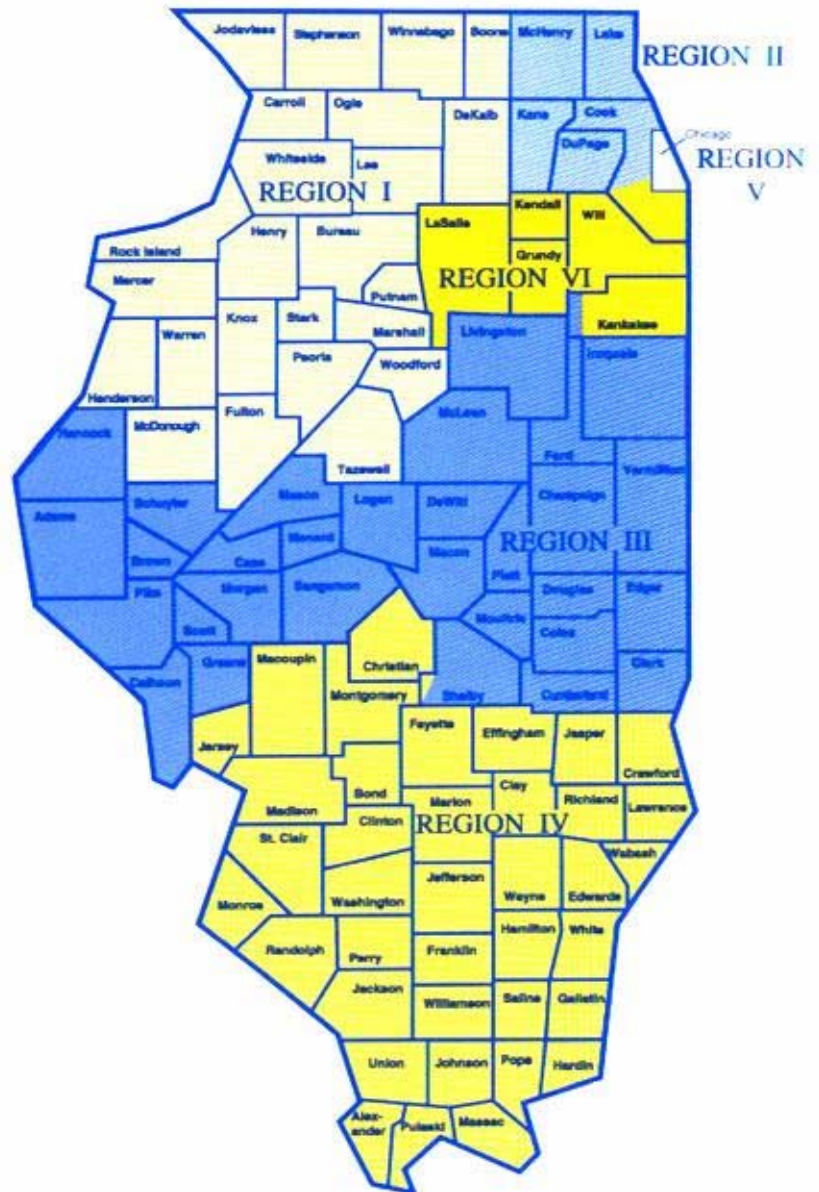
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Chicago Region V
 STARNET Project Coordinator
 Office of Specialized Services Resource Network
 Colman School - Mail Run #42
 4655 South Dearborn
 Chicago, IL 60609
 Phone: 773-535-8607
http://www.cps.k12.il.us/AboutCPS/Departments/OSS/star_net.html

South Suburban/East Central Region VI
 STARNET Project Coordinator
 Southwest Cooperative/ Braun Education Center
 6020 West 151st Street
 Oak Forest, IL 60452
 Phone: (708) 342-5370
<http://www.swccase.org>

Illinois STARNET Regions
 (or visit <http://www.thecenterweb.org>
 website)



[Early Childhood Local Training Opportunities](#)

There are many organizations throughout Illinois that offer pre-service and ongoing professional development and training opportunities on a range of early childhood issues to child care and early education administrators, teachers, other practitioners, and trainers.

Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children (Illinois AEYC)

For all early care and education practitioners and administrators

The Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children is a membership organization whose mission is to facilitate the optimal development of young children by:

- Mobilizing the early childhood community to advocate for young children;
- Educating the public as to the importance of the early childhood years and the value of early childhood professionals;
- Enhancing the professional development of Illinois AEYC members; and
- Improving the quality of early childhood programs.

The Illinois AEYC website (<http://www.illinoisaeyc.org/affiliates>) contains a list of the 22 Illinois AEYC Affiliate Chapters, which are divided into five regions. Many of these affiliates convene professional development conferences and workshops. Contact the

Continued on next page



Illinois AEYC
3180 Adloff Lane, Suite 302
Springfield, IL 62703
Phone: (217) 529-7732
E-mail: Donetta836@illinoisaeyc.org
<http://www.illinoisaeyc.org>

Illinois Early Learning Web Site

For all early childhood practitioners and administrators, parents, and other early childhood stakeholders

The Illinois Early Learning Web site (<http://www.illinoisearlylearning.org>) is an effective means of providing evidence-based, reliable information to parents and family members, early childhood teachers and caregivers, early childhood special educators, parenting educators, and administrators of early childhood programs. The website offers printable Tip Sheets for caregivers and parents, Frequently Asked Questions (and their responses), a statewide calendar of events for parents and caregivers, an easy-to-use database of links to the web on topics of high interest, and Online Chats.

The Illinois Early Learning Calendar (IEL) Calendar includes training events of interest to early childhood teachers and caregivers, early childhood special educators, parenting educators, administrators, and parents and families. The IEL Calendar is available at: <http://www.illinoisearlylearning.org/workshops.htm>



Illinois Early Learning Project
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Children's Research Center
51 Gerty Drive
Champaign, IL 61820-7469
Phone: (800) 583-4135
E-mail: iel@ericps.crc.uiuc.edu
<http://www.illinoisearlylearning.org>

Illinois Training Directory: A Comprehensive Guide to Early Childhood Training Organizations (2nd Edition, January 2003)

This guide provides information about organizations throughout Illinois that offer training on a range of early childhood issues. This guide will assist in planning staff development and coordination efforts for practitioners, administrators, and trainers.



The Ounce of Prevention Fund
Kids PEPP Division
122 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2050
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: (312) 922-3863
Maria Sanchez, Kids PEPP Division
[http://www.ounceofprevention.org/downloads/ programs/
directory_2003_KP.pdf](http://www.ounceofprevention.org/downloads/programs/directory_2003_KP.pdf)

Local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&R)

For all early care and education providers, particularly child care centers, family child care homes, and license-exempt homes

Illinois CCR&Rs work in partnership with parents, business leaders, government officials, higher education faculty and administrators, and early care and education providers to make high quality child care and early education available to Illinois families. CCR&Rs work cooperatively with a range of stakeholders to prepare individuals to enter the early care and education field through pre-service training; assist practitioners to use best practices and obtain new skills through ongoing professional development; increase the supply of high quality, affordable child care; and assist families in locating early care and education services to meet their needs.

The state of Illinois is broken down into groupings of counties called Service Delivery Areas (SDA). Each SDA has a Child Care Resource & Referral agency that serves the communities within the SDA. The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) is an organization of regional Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agencies serving communities throughout the State of Illinois.

Continued on next page

To find out which local CCR&R agency serves your area, go to <http://www.ilchildcare.org>. Click on Quick Links/Find Child Care Now!/Find Your Local CCR&R. Or call toll free 1-877-202-4453 (20-CHILD) and enter your zip code.

A listing of and website links to each CCR&R are available at <http://www.ilchildcare.org>. Click on Quick Links/Find Child Care Now!/Illinois CCR&R Directory.

Each CCR&R offers the following core set of services:

For Providers:

- Training and technical assistance
- Educational scholarships
- Funding for accreditation and professional development
- Professional recognition
- Resource lending library
- Referrals

For Parents:

- Consumer education and information on child care options
- Referrals to child care programs
- Assistance paying for child care
- Referral to services for children with special needs
- Parenting workshops
- Information on quality indicators

For Communities:

- Local child care supply and demand reports
- Options for child care solutions
- Recruitment of child care providers
- Health, safety and literacy materials for growing children

For Employers:

- Enhanced Child Care Resource & Referral Services
- Parenting workshops
- Targeted recruitment

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CCR&R Professional Development Funds

Professional development funds available through individual CCR&Rs allow child care providers the opportunity to attend professional development activities not sponsored by your local CCR&R. Providers may request funds for college tuition, conference fees, or other community training offerings. Contact your local CCR&R to inquire about professional development funds.

CCR&R Training Workshops, Conferences, Self-study materials

Individual CCR&R agencies plan and deliver training in many forms to respond to the diverse training needs of child care practitioners in Illinois. Contact your local CCR&R to inquire about workshops, conferences, and self-study materials available in your area.

CCR&R Special Care Outreach Training

The Special Care Outreach Training available through your local CCR&R supports the inclusion of children with special needs/disabilities in child care settings. Special Care Outreach supports a statewide cadre of trainers to provide 6–8 hour training seminars on inclusive child care. Contact your local CCR&R to inquire about Special Care Outreach Training.

Illinois Child Care Conferences

For all early care and education providers

Many Illinois early childhood-related websites maintain updated lists of early care and education conferences and events. Check out the Illinois Early Learning website – <http://www.illinoisearlylearning.org> – for an updated calendar of events and links to many other websites. The INCCRRA website – <http://www.ilchildcare.org/providers/conferences.htm> – also lists training conferences, workshops, and other professional development opportunities.

PSO/Illinois' Child Care Association

For all segments of the child care industry: individuals, schools, firms, and corporations that are licensed and organized to provide early care and education services

PSO/Illinois' Child Care Association is a professional association representing the interests of early education child care centers, and is open to individuals, schools, firms, and corporations that are licensed and organized principally to provide child care service in the state of Illinois. Members receive legislative information, regulatory updates and are offered opportunities for networking and professional development through conferences and mailings. Many members are also willing to conduct trainings, offer technical assistance, and assist other members to access resources. PSO/Illinois' Child Care Association holds an annual conference and trade show each February called the Insights Conference. PSO/ Illinois' Child Care Association members also offer training to other members.



PSO/Illinois' Child Care Association
310 E. Adams
Springfield, Ill. 62701
Phone: 877-912-4222
E-mail: psaicca@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.psaicca.org>

What are the Benefits of Obtaining Higher Education Degrees?

- *Research reveals that teachers with bachelor's degrees and specialized training in early childhood are more effective, and are the major component of program quality.*
- *Teachers who complete at least 12 to 20 hours of community college coursework exhibit more developmentally appropriate beliefs and practices than teachers who do not attend college.*
- *Teachers with college degrees often receive higher salaries, better benefits, and have more career options than those who do not have degrees.*

Directory of Colleges and Universities: A Comprehensive Guide to Early Childhood Degree and Certificate Programs in Illinois (2003 edition)

Provides comprehensive information about Illinois' 2-year community colleges, 4-year colleges, and universities that offer coursework and degree opportunities in early childhood. The Directory can serve as a starting place for prospective students and employers interested in finding schools nearby that offer coursework in early childhood areas.



The Ounce of Prevention Fund, Kids PEPP Division
122 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2050
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: (312) 922-3863
Maria Sanchez, Kids PEPP Division
http://www.ounceofprevention.org/downloads/programs/directory_2003_KP.pdf

Community Colleges

For all early care and education practitioners, including those at entry-level

Illinois' community colleges offer a variety of programs for early childhood students, including early childhood certificates, Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Early Childhood Education degrees, and Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) transfer degrees, which include 39–45 credits of General Education courses designed to transfer to baccalaureate programs. Individuals often attend community colleges to obtain college credit and early childhood coursework specified in licensing requirements. Of Illinois' 48 community colleges, 45 offer AAS programs in early childhood; 31 offer certificates of 30–50 semester credits; and 21 offer certificates of less than 30 semester hours. Many early childhood teachers and other staff fulfill the DCFS education requirements by taking early childhood courses at community colleges.



For more information on community college programs in your area, contact your local community college. Find out which community college serves your local area and link to individual community college websites by using the Illinois Community College Board website. Go to <http://www.iccb.state.il.us> and click on For Students. Then, click on Community Colleges for links to individual community college websites (<http://www.iccb.state.il.us/HTML/colleges/colleges.html>).



Illinois Community College Board
Associate Director for Transfer Programs
2450 Foundation Drive, Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62703
Phone: (217) 785-0123
E-mail: webmaster@iccb.state.il.us
<http://www.iccb.state.il.us>

Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI)

For individuals interested in early childhood college coursework in colleges and universities

iTransfer is the official website of the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) whose mission is to facilitate student transfer from one participating Illinois college or university to another in order to complete a degree. There are two components to IAI:

- The **General Education Core Curriculum** is designed so that associate degree students can complete a 37–41 credit block of general education courses (math, science, English, etc.) at a community college and transfer the entire block to a participating four-year institution having met most of that institution’s general education requirements.
- **IAI Majors, including Early Childhood Education**, are designed to provide guidance to students who have decided upon their major but are undecided about whether they will transfer to a baccalaureate degree program or do not know which program they will transfer into. For each major, panels of faculty have developed a recommended list of IAI-approved courses that are described as “typically taken by freshmen and sophomores for a specific major.” The Early Childhood Education Major includes 6–7 courses.

Visit the iTransfer website at <http://www.itransfer.org/IAI/Majors/Ece> to learn more about course transfer options at all 2- and 4-year higher education institutions.



For contact information for faculty members on the Early Childhood Education IAI Panel, click on Faculty/Advisory and then Panel Membership Organization. Find the Early Childhood Education Panel for a list of members and e-mail contacts. http://www.itransfer.org/IAI/Fact/ViewPanels.taf?page=search&panel=PNL_MJ-ECE

Four-Year Colleges and Universities

For individuals interested in coursework in colleges and universities

Illinois' four-year public and private colleges and universities offer a variety of baccalaureate and graduate programs that prepare individuals for jobs in the early childhood field. The largest of these are bachelor's and master's-level teacher preparation programs that lead to Type 04 Teacher Certification in Early Childhood Education. There are also Family and Consumer Science programs that prepare students for jobs in non-school public settings. These include child care center or Head Start directors, parent educators, work life coordinators, community service workers, and family case managers.

Bachelor Degree Programs in Early Childhood Education

Public Institutions:

Chicago State University
Eastern Illinois University
Governors State University
Illinois State University
Northeastern Illinois University
Northern Illinois University
Southern Illinois University – Carbondale
Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville
University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign
Western Illinois University

Private Institutions:

Bradley University
Columbia College Chicago
Concordia University
DePaul University
Dominican University
Elmhurst College
Greenville College
Illinois College
Judson College
Kendall College
National-Louis University
North Park University
Olivet Nazarene University
Roosevelt University
St. Xavier University

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Master's Degree Programs in Early Childhood

Public Institutions:

Chicago State University
Governors State University
Northern Illinois University
University of Illinois at Chicago
(Certificate Program only)

Private Institutions:

Concordia University
Dominican University
Elmhurst College
Erikson Institute
Loyola University of Chicago
National-Louis University
Roosevelt University
St. Xavier University

Family and Consumer Science Bachelor's Degree Programs with Family and Child Studies Concentrations

Public Institutions:

Chicago State University
Illinois State University
Eastern Illinois University
Northern Illinois University
Southern Illinois University
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Private Institutions:

Olivet Nazarene University
Bradley University



For more information on 4-year college and university programs in your area, contact the public or private institution closest to you. Find out which colleges and universities serve your local area and link to individual institution websites by using the Illinois Board of Higher Education website. Go to <http://www.ibhe.state.il.us> and click on Colleges and Universities. You will find numerous links to both public and private higher education institutions throughout Illinois.



The Illinois Board of Higher Education
431 East Adams, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1418
Phone: (217) 782-2551
General Information: info@ibhe.org
<http://www.ibhe.state.il.us>

Illinois Scholarships, Grants, & Loans

For individuals interested in pursuing coursework in colleges and universities

Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is a one-stop financial aid center designed to make postsecondary education financially accessible for Illinois students and families. ISAC administers most of the key state and federal grant, scholarship, loan and prepaid tuition programs available to postsecondary students. ISAC's comprehensive array of programs includes state and federal grants and scholarships, federal and alternative educational loans, and college savings and investment options.

ISAC administers three programs to assist individuals, especially minorities, to pursue teaching careers in teacher shortage disciplines, which includes Early Childhood Education. Upon graduation, recipients must teach in Illinois public, private or parochial pre-schools or public, elementary, or secondary schools. The programs are: the Illinois Future Teacher Corps (IFTC) Program, the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program, and the Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program. To learn more about a range of financial aid programs, see ISAC's website at <http://www.collegezone.com>



College Planning, Financial Aid Programs, & Default Prevention Outreach
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

1755 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, IL 60015-5209
Phone: 800-899-ISAC (4722)
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. CST
E-mail: collegezone@isac.org
<http://www.collegezone.com>

Program Requirements
(Default Prevention Counseling Services & Teaching Fulfillment Requirements)

Phone: 800-477-4411
8 a.m. - 6 p.m. CST
E-mail: proreq@isac.org

College Illinois!
Phone: 877-877-3724
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. CST
E-mail: collil@isac.org

Chapter 7: Transitions to Kindergarten

What are Best Transitions to Kindergarten Practices?

Child care providers are important partners in transition processes, whether from home to child care or child care to elementary school. The following activities strengthen bonds between child care and elementary schools before children enter school:

- *Personalized communication between and among families and staff in child care centers, birth-to-three programs, and schools to facilitate continuity of programming*
- *Scheduling meetings involving child care teachers and parents and kindergarten or elementary teachers to discuss the developmental progress and abilities of individual children*
- *Scheduling visits for children in child care to visit kindergarten classrooms and for kindergarten teachers to visit child care classrooms*
- *Developing transition planning teams and initiating joint transition-related training for child care and school or other community agency staff*
- *Aligning curriculum and expectations across child care and kindergarten programs*
- *Transferring a child's relevant child care records to the school*
- *Providing education and training to parents regarding their rights and responsibilities concerning the education of their children in school settings and assisting parents in communicating with teachers and other school personnel*
- *Convening a staff-parent meeting toward the end of the child's participation in child care so that parents understand their child's progress and school readiness skills*



What are the Benefits of Effective Transition Practices?

- *The Head Start Transition Project demonstrated that children who knew what to expect in kindergarten before they entered school experienced less anxiety when they began school.*
- *The transition to elementary school is easier for children who have acquired basic school readiness skills before entering kindergarten, including social and communication skills, peer group entry strategies, and basic academic skills.*
- *Attendance in high-quality early care and education programs that employ a range of transition activities can set children on a track for continued success in school and later life.*
- *Family members, particularly those from diverse ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, may feel more comfortable advocating for their children in school when they are involved early in their child's formal education.*

Overview

The transition to formal schooling is a landmark event for millions of children, families, and educators. However, the transition from child care or home to kindergarten can also be extremely stressful for 5-year-olds. Children face new expectations for independence and responsibility, goals that are more formal and tied to academic progress, and larger class sizes. And, many young children enter school lacking some of the required competencies, creating a mismatch between what children know and what the school expects. Despite this critical period in children's lives, many schools do not have specific transition plans in place, nor do they engage in activities to connect children and families to school before kindergarten entry.

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Child care providers are key partners in transition processes, whether from home to child care or child care to elementary school. The transition works best when strong relationships linking the children, families, school and community, including child care programs, are established before kindergarten starts.

Contact your local elementary schools to see how you can facilitate effective transitions practices from child care to kindergarten. There are many good publications and resources available about effective transition practices through a variety of websites and organizations, many of which are described below.



Chicago Public Schools Getting Ready for Kindergarten Kit (*in English and Spanish*)

CONTACT:

Chicago Public Schools' Office of Early Childhood Education
Early Childhood Education Chief Officer

125 S. Clark Street, 9th Floor

Chicago, IL 60603

Phone: (773) 553-2010

<http://www.ecechicago.org>

Education Commission for the States (ECS)

ECS' Early Learning Initiative works with state policymakers to: 1) develop, track and disseminate the best information available on early care and education policy and programs; 2) provide technical assistance to expand access, improve quality and promote positive outcomes for young children; 3) define how federal K–12 policy initiatives impact early learning policy; and 4) explore the implications and possibilities of “P–3 education,” linking early childhood education with early elementary education. There are many good resources, reports, statistics, and website links available on the ECS website. Refer to ECS' Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Policy Databases, two 50–state databases of state prek and kindergarten policies that allow you to review and compare access, quality and funding of prek and kindergarten in the states.

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Education Commission for the States
Early Learning Program Director
700 Broadway, #1200
Denver, Colorado 80203-3460
Phone: (303) 299-3662
E-mail: kkauerz@ecs.org
<http://www.ecs.org>

Head Start Information and Publication Center

The federal Head Start Bureau provides a wide range of excellent publications, video-tapes and other items to provide a rich variety of materials for all early care and education providers, including Head Start grantees and delegates, to use in the planning, management and operation of their programs. The following free publications on early childhood transitions are available through the <http://www.headstartinfo.org> website:

- Easing the Transition from Preschool to Kindergarten: A Guide for Early Childhood Teachers and Administrators (in English and Spanish)
- Effective Transition Practices: Facilitating Continuity
- Infant and Toddler Transitions
- Planning for Transitions
- Transitions: Parents are Key

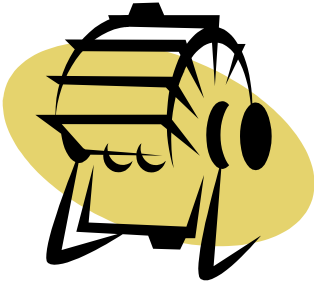


CONTACT:

To order publications, contact puborder@headstartinfo.org
Phone: (866) 763-6481 (toll free)
<http://www.headstartinfo.org>

Illinois State Board of Education's Push Up Transition/Continuity Initiative

This ISBE initiative creates teams of teachers (preschool–grade 3) and building administrators to study and plan for smooth transitions in developmentally appropriate early childhood programs. Districts that have been involved in this for several years have focused on continuity in a range of areas, including mathematics instruction.



Early Childhood Education Division Administrator
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. First Street, Floor 4
Springfield, IL 62777
Phone: (217) 524-4835
E-mail: hhenders@isbe.net
<http://www.isbe.net>

Kellogg Foundation Spark Initiative

The SPARK initiative seeks to align early learning and elementary school systems—as well as health and critical services—for children who are likely to be unprepared. For SPARK, a centerpiece of alignment is a smooth transition to school that becomes a process of months or years—not days. SPARK will support five-year implementation plans of grantees in seven states and the District of Columbia to smooth the transition to school and align preschool and elementary school settings. SPARK grantees will implement a variety of transition practices such as aligning expectations and standards, coordinating training for PreK and elementary teachers, increasing parent involvement, and connecting communities to state agencies and advocacy groups to sustain and replicate best practices. The Kellogg Foundation website contains publications about the SPARK Initiative and about transitions to school.



W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Youth and Education Program Officer, SPARK Initiative
One Michigan Avenue East
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017-4058
Phone: (269) 968-1611
<http://www.wkkf.org>

National Association for the Education of Young Children Accreditation (NAEYC)

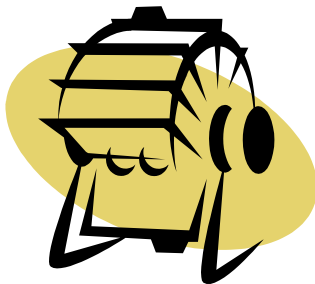
NAEYC has issued a number of position statements related to improving program practices with children, including Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth through Age Eight.



National Association for the Education of Young Children
1509 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-1426
Phone: (800) 424-2460
E-mail: naeyc@naeyc.org
<http://www.naeyc.org>

National All Day Kindergarten Network

The National All-Day Kindergarten Network is an association of early childhood educators throughout the country who are actively involved in the all-day kindergarten movement. The purpose of the network is to provide guidance in decisions of policy and practice, to serve as a liaison with early childhood projects and professional organizations, and to be a resource for the identification of speakers and materials related to kindergarten. This site offers a bibliography of selected topics in kindergarten education, as well as a host of online resources.



<http://www.siue.edu/~snall/kdtn>

National Center for Early Development & Learning (NCEDL)

NCEDL is a national early childhood research project based at the Frank Porter Graham (FPG) Child Development Institute supported by the U.S. Department of Education. Research focuses on enhancing the cognitive, social and emotional development of children from birth through age eight. One of NCEDL's key areas of focus is *Transitions to Kindergarten*. Below are a range of resources about transitions to kindergarten.

Transitions to Kindergarten Policy Briefs and Fact Sheets

Find a short, accessible policy brief and fact sheet summarizing best practices in transitions to kindergarten at <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~NCEDL/pages/products.cfm>

The Transition to Kindergarten (book) Robert C. Pianta and Martha J. Cox, editors (1999). Brookes Publishing Co. Baltimore, MD [\$36.00 Paperback. ISBN 1-55776-399-8]. Order online from <http://www.brookespublishing.com> or call (800) 638-3775.

This book offers useful information on how to improve the early school transition to affect a child's later success, and includes recent studies by researchers with the National Center for Early Development & Learning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



National Center for Early Development & Learning
Frank Porter Graham (FPG) Child Development Institute
CB 8185
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Phone: (919) 966-0867
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<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~NCEDL>

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Special thanks to Wanda Newell, McCormick Tribune Foundation Education Program Director, for her support and vision.

About Chicago Metropolis 2020

Chicago Metropolis 2020 is a business-backed civic organization promoting healthy regional growth. Chicago Metropolis 2020 was created by The Commercial Club of Chicago in 1999 to advocate for better regional planning and smart investments in our future. Some of those investments are in people. Chicago Metropolis 2020 has program areas in Early Childhood Education, Justice and Violence, and Housing—each with the goal of enabling all residents of the six-county region (Cook, DuPage, Lake, McHenry, Kane, and Will) to reach their full potential. Some of those investments are in physical infrastructure. Chicago Metropolis 2020 is working towards radical changes in the region's land use and transportation policies. Our unifying vision is that the region's governments, businesses, and residents must work together to make the kinds of informed choices that will make the region attractive and economically competitive 10, 50, and 100 years from now.



One Region. One Future.

30 West Monroe Street, 18th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
312/332-2020 phone
312/332-2626 fax

<http://www.chicagometropolis2020.org> website