

# NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Child Care Providers Recognized with Make a Difference Awards

*Gov. Dalrymple proclaims May 8 as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day*

BISMARCK, N.D. – Early childhood service providers love, educate, and nurture our state’s greatest asset, our children. In conjunction with the Child Care Provider Appreciation Day, the North Dakota Department of Human Services has recognized two licensed early childhood service providers with the *Make a Difference Award* for their work in enriching the lives of children and families.

*A Child’s World*, a licensed facility provider, located in the YWCA in **Fargo** and *As I Do I Learn Daycare and Preschool*, a licensed home provider in **Williston**, were selected for this award based on their licensing compliance, commitment to improving program quality and meeting the unique needs of all children in care, and other criteria.

“The department invited county early childhood licensers and child care consultants from Child Care Aware of North Dakota to nominate providers for this award,” said Jennifer Barry, the department’s early childhood services administrator. “There are many providers who go above and beyond in the home, classroom, and community and are worthy of this award. We are happy to choose two outstanding providers as this year’s honorees.”

*A Child’s World* has been licensed since 1997 as a child care center and preschool. The facility was the first in the state to receive the highest level in Bright & Early North Dakota, a program that provides incentives and support to licensed providers who achieve standards of quality goals. *A Child’s World* also benefited from the Inclusion Support Program that helps providers create and maintain an inclusive learning environment for children with special needs.

Diana Miller of *As I Do I Learn* has been licensed in North Dakota since January 2015. Miller was licensed for 22 years as a child care provider before moving to North Dakota and has nearly 630 hours of child care training. She is committed to partnering with children’s families, schools, and service providers to ensure that children receive the highest quality of care and education in her program.

Barry said there are about 1,460 licensed home and facility child care providers and preschool programs in the state and there is support available to help individuals interested in starting a child care business.

Individuals interested in becoming a licensed child care provider should contact Child Care Aware of North Dakota at 888-223-1510 (western North Dakota), 800-452-3646 (eastern North Dakota), online at [www.ndchildcare.org/](http://www.ndchildcare.org/) or contact their local county social services office child care licensing unit at [www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/).

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For information on early childhood services programs, visit [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childcare/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childcare/).

The North Dakota Department of Human Services regulates some child care providers including licensed, unlicensed self-declared and unlicensed “approved relative” providers. The agency also establishes standards and provides training and education to child care providers.

The Governor’s Child Care Provider Appreciation Day proclamation can be viewed on the web at [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childcare/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childcare/).

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