

## Early Childhood Services

### Purpose of Early Childhood Services

To coordinate activities, establish standards and provide training to providers of early care and education for children so that they can meet their goals as agreed upon with the Department.

### Child Care Licensing

- **County social service offices** conduct child care licensing studies, investigate complaints, and issue correction orders.
- **Regional offices** located at the Department's eight regional human service centers issue licenses, denials, revocations, and suspensions.
- The Department's **Children and Family Services Division** develops regulations, policies, and procedures; conducts licensing training; reviews notices before issuance; and provides technical assistance.

### N.D. Child Care Provider Data

As of January 2010 there were:

- **550 self-declared child care providers**  
*They self declare that they comply with some health and safety regulations. They are not inspected or monitored, unless a concern is reported.*  
(Capacity: 2,752 children)
- **1,439 licensed child care providers**  
*They are licensed by the state and undergo initial and ongoing inspections to assure compliance with health and safety standards.* (Capacity: 24,154 children)
- **597 approved relative providers**  
(Capacity: 1,320 children)

### Corrective Action

**Parents who want to know the licensing history of a child care provider** may contact their county social service office to obtain the history of any corrective action for the provider.

### Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)

CCR&R works to improve the system of early learning for children by helping families searching for child care, supporting child care programs, and working with communities to address child care issues. Established in 1992 by the North Dakota Legislature and supported by public and private funding, CCR&R services are available throughout the state.

#### *Helping Families*

CCR&R assists families in their search for quality child care by supplying families with individualized referrals to all types of licensed child care, as well as resources to help parents evaluate and choose appropriate care for their children. In the past year, CCR&R helped 5,474 families find child care for about 10,060 children.

#### *Helping Child Care Providers*

CCR&R supports individuals and programs that care for children by coordinating meaningful training opportunities and resources, providing technical assistance to become licensed or to improve quality, and providing help in filling vacancies.

#### *Training & Professional Development*

CCR&R develops and delivers training to build the competency and knowledge of people working in early childhood settings. Providers can use the CCR&R Core Competency Courses to improve skills and meet professional goals such as obtaining national credentials or accreditation. Training is offered online and face-to-face to meet the needs of all providers.

### *Training & Professional Development (continued)*

- In the past year, CCR&R held 222 trainings
  - Totalling 961 hours of professional development
  - Attended by 7,023 people (duplicated count)

### *Technical Assistance & Consultation*

- In 2009, CCR&R made 645 (duplicated) on-site visits to family, group, and center programs.
- A total of 261 (unduplicated) providers received technical assistance in 2009.

### *Helping Communities*

- CCR&R builds connections in communities to generate support for child care issues by providing reliable data and encouraging partnerships to expand the child care capacity.
- CCR&R helps the public understand the important connection between the quality of care children receive in the early years and school success.

### **North Dakota Core Competencies**

The *North Dakota Core Competencies for Early Education and Care Practitioners* is a tool which can be used to guide professional development of individuals working in early childhood. The *Core Competencies* define what adults who work with children need to know, understand, and be able to do in order to support children in reaching desired outcomes. See [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/cfs/nd-core-competencies-early-educ-care-practitioners-rev3-17-10.pdf](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/cfs/nd-core-competencies-early-educ-care-practitioners-rev3-17-10.pdf).

### **North Dakota Early Learning Guidelines**

[www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childcare/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childcare/)

- Are a **voluntary set of guidelines** intended as a resource for parents, child care providers, pre-kindergarten and Head Start teachers, and others
- **Outline the skills, knowledge, and dispositions** young children need prior to entering first grade
- **Are a tool** for those who work with young children to used in planning meaningful and appropriate learning experiences for children, ages 0-5

### **State Early Childhood Services Team**

#### **Includes:**

- Regional Early Childhood Supervisors, CCR&R Directors, County Licensers, County Directors (appointed by the County Directors Association), and the State Administrator of Early Childhood Services (who convenes team meetings in Bismarck)

#### **Was established in 1999 to:**

- Improve communication within the early childhood services delivery system,
- Identify challenges and issues related to early childhood services, and
- Enhance the service delivery system.

### **Growing Childcare Initiative**

- Was **authorized when the 2009 N.D. Legislature** passed House Bill 1418, to address early childhood care workforce development, child care capacity, and quality improvement for facilities
- Aims to **enhance current early childhood programs** and to **recruit new programs** to increase the capacity of childcare in the state
- Is **funded with federal** American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) **stimulus funds**
- Resulted in the Department of Human Services contracting with CCR&R to implement the *Growing Childcare Initiative*
- Was **launched in January 2010**
- **Involves** free progressive professional development, on-site technical assistance, and business planning help for current and prospective early childhood care providers, along with scholarships to help providers obtain a national Child Development Associate credential.
- See: [www.ndchildcare.org/providers/quality-improvement](http://www.ndchildcare.org/providers/quality-improvement).

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