

CCR Core Services-Technical Assistance

Providing technical assistance to child care centers and family home providers is a core function of Provider Services. Our job is to help providers become better at doing their vitally important work. Here are some of the ways we do this:

- * Pre-licensing visits for prospective providers
- * Licensure referrals of providers
- * Helping directors and FCC providers with budgeting, business and administrative challenges
- * Lending a helping hand to providers undertaking accreditation
- * Helping with indoor and outdoor play environments
- * Curriculum ideas
- * Observations of teachers and kids

TA can be one time or ongoing, narrowly focused or wide-ranging. Sometimes we even help community organizations exploring the possibility of sponsoring child care. While each staff member and consultant doing TA has a unique skill set, TA by its nature requires all of us to be generalists who continue to learn new things ourselves.

CCR Core Services-Training

Child Care Resources' Provider Services strives to improve child care quality. One of the ways we achieve this is by offering STARS trainings and other educational opportunities to child care providers. We offer classes and workshops to the general public, we organize and present conferences for Family Child Care providers and Center providers, and we provide onsite customized workshops. Child Care Resources offers classes in all STARS competency areas. Consultants who are interested in applying as workshop educators for Child Care Resources should be well versed in basic human development, be able to list key learning outcomes for participants, be able to actively engage participants, honor all learning styles and cultures as they present the materials in the workshops, be able to assess participants learning, and have a thorough grasp of the specialty area of their focus.

White Center Early Learning Initiative- Child Care Quality Improvement

Child Care Resources is a partner in the White Center Early Learning Initiative (WCELI) providing quality improvement support to licensed centers and family child care homes. The overarching goal of quality improvement activities is to boost the quality of childcare available to families, while giving providers the tools and support they need to raise the level of quality in their programs. The voluntary quality improvement program in White Center, in conjunction with the statewide Quality Improvement Rating System (QRIS), includes comprehensive quality improvement efforts focused on the following areas:

- Curriculum and learning environment
- Professional development and training
- Family relationships and community partnerships

- Management practices

In addition to financial and professional development incentives, experienced early learning coaches work with participating providers to identify and achieve goals, and provide regular, ongoing individualized support throughout the quality improvement process. The coach/provider partnership is key in building and sustaining high quality early learning environments.

Boeing Social and Emotional Development

School readiness involves social and emotional, as well as cognitive development. Recent studies have raised awareness about the growing number of children who are socially and emotionally unprepared for school. Child Care Resources is helping providers foster the social and emotional growth of children in 12 centers in South King County that serve homeless, low income and ESL children. The project has four components: monthly meetings and training for directors; training for the teachers; on site coaching for both directors and teachers; and consultation for CCR staff provided by the University of Washington's Promoting First Relationships project. The Boeing Social and Emotional Development Project runs through January 2009.

Early Learning Network

The Purpose of the Seattle Early Learning Network Project (SELN) is to support children's optimal development so that they will be successful in school. SELN is funded by the City of Seattle Families and Education Levy and is focused in southeast and southwest Seattle to coordinate and expand school readiness services for children and families in those neighborhoods.

Professional Development under ELN includes: funding support for college classes and culturally relevant anti bias trainings related to early childhood education. In addition each center receives coaching from a consultant who provides specific technical assistance and support in the classroom around curriculum implementation, lesson planning and developmentally appropriate best practices (DAP) as well as one on one time to work with teachers on professional development goals.

Child Care Careers

Child Care Careers Program has been in existence since 1998, as a response to welfare reform legislation. The Child Care Careers Program recruits and trains low-income individuals for employment in the child care field. This program assists refugee/immigrant women gain economic stability and strength in developing their professional careers. Along with that it has increased the availability of high quality, affordable and culturally relevant child care teachers in King County. Since 1998, over 450 women have enrolled in the program and over 73 have opened their own family childcare businesses. Our expectation is that through this opportunity there will be 30-40 students who will participate in training in 2008-2009. Careers utilizes consultants to train on various topics throughout the program.

Seattle Early Education Collaborative

The purpose of the Seattle Early Education Collaborative (SEEC) is to support the children' optimal development so that they will be successful in school. SEEC is collaboration between several professional development funding sources that include City of Seattle Families and Education Levy; City of Seattle general subsidy funding; and Early Childhood Education and Assistance funds. Professional Development under SEEC includes: funding support for college classes and culturally relevant anti bias trainings related to early childhood education. In addition each center receives coaching from a consultant who provides specific technical assistance and support in the classroom around curriculum implementation. Lesson planning and developmentally appropriate best practices (DAP) as well as one on one time work with teachers on professional development goals.

Committed to Quality-Accreditation

Accreditation is a comprehensive means of improving the quality of care in child care programs. Child Care Resources encourages and helps both centers and family home providers to become and stay accredited. Most child care centers choose to pursue accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) -- the oldest and largest system -- though we also help programs with accreditation through the National Accreditation Commission (NAC). We assist family home providers become accredited through the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC). Child care centers seeking accreditation are matched up with a mentor, to provide guidance and encouragement through the process, and receive financial assistance as well (for instance, partial coverage of the fees). Family home providers, too, benefit from mentoring and other support. Also, providers have the chance to network with others going through the same process. Accreditation can be daunting, but most providers who ask for our help do end up achieving it.

Seattle Early Reading First

Seattle Early Reading First (SERF) is a three year federal Department of Education grant that reflects a partnership between the City of Seattle Human Services Department, Child Care Resources, the University of Washington, the Seattle Public Library, and Seattle Public Schools. SERF works with early childhood centers to prepare preschool age children impacted by low economic status to enter kindergarten with the language, cognitive, and early literacy skills necessary for academic success.

SERF teachers receive up to fifteen hours a month of on-site, culturally relevant support from experienced early childhood literacy coaches. Coaches will guide teachers in the following areas:

- ECE curricula and approaches, with an emphasis on the OWL curriculum

- Classroom management
- Adult-Child interactions
- ELL and dual language approaches for children and adults
- Modeling of specific literacy methods and best practices
- Child assessments
- Understanding and communicating assessment data to families
- Bridging a classroom-based literacy approach to family literacy practices