



CHILD CARE INNOVATIONS

Child Care Innovations, formerly known as Family Resources and Child Care Education (FRCCE), has existed for more than twenty years, providing training and support to child care providers, building child care capacity, and developing programs to enhance quality. Child Care Innovations is a department of Red Rocks Community College, and continues to manage diverse funding provided by state, federal, county, private contracts, and tuition and fees. Core services include:

- ◆ **Helping parents find child care –**

We help parents take the guesswork out of choosing care by giving them referrals to local child care providers, information on state licensing requirements, availability of child care subsidies and other pertinent information. We provide guidance by phone, in person, fax, mail and Internet.

- ◆ **Supporting families to raise healthy children-**

Through workshops, hot lines and newsletters, we reach out to parents with trusted, local information that enables them to make informed choices about all aspects of care for their children.

- ◆ **Building the supply of child care –**

We provide an entry point to the child care field, helping providers meet licensing requirements and become informed on health and safety, business practices and child development. We also work with local and state governments and the private sector to leverage resources for building and maintaining the supply of quality child care.

- ◆ **Improving the quality of child care-**

We provide ongoing professional development opportunities to child care providers and staff. By supporting accreditation and credentialing programs, helping create financial incentives for education, and advocating for better compensation for providers, we improve the quality of care for all children.

- ◆ **Bridging child care and education-**

We strive to create child care settings that help children grow and learn. Educating parents about early learning and the components of quality care is a major part of our services.

- ◆ **Documenting child care needs and trends-**

We are the primary source of information about the local supply and cost of child care. With our comprehensive, well-maintained database, we are able to track trends about the changing needs of families.

- ◆ **Engaging new partners-**

By reaching out to business leaders, law enforcement, school teachers and others, we help make child care an issue the entire community care about. We collaborate with other family support services to promote a holistic vision of child care that includes health, literacy and special needs.

- ◆ **Telling the child care story-**

By providing resources, documenting community needs, and creating new ways to meet those needs, we bring the voices of children, families and child care providers to the public.

Program Highlights

Child Care Referrals: We are a Qualistar Early Learning Partner working in collaboration with 2-1-1 Mile High United Way and the Denver Early Childhood Council to serve the counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Parks. Families may receive free referrals of licensed centers and family child care homes. Using a comprehensive database of over 3,000 facilities, Referral Specialists can provide consumer education and referrals tailored to meet individual family needs. Referrals may be obtained by calling 1- 877-338-CARE or via the internet at www.qualistar.org.

Child Care Licensing Services: We contract with the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care to provide licensing and monitoring of over 4,000 child care facilities in seventeen counties. Licensing staff are also available to respond to questions about the licensing process and assist in interpretation of regulations. For more information call 303 914-6304.

Coordinated Alliance of Resource Exchange Services (CARES): Because we believe in the inherent right of all children to reach their fullest potential, this program provides support to families and early childhood professionals caring for children who have special needs. A dedicated staff position is available to provide enhanced child care services, connect families with supportive community services, and broker on site services to early childhood professionals to assist in meeting the care needs of the individual child. CARES provides on site and technical assistance by phone, with an average of 25 receiving on site Resource Visits by a mental health professional to address the needs of children exhibiting emotional or behavioral concerns. For more information, call 303 914-6595.

Professional Development: Child Care Innovations provides a variety of on-going and customized workshops, seminars, conferences, and other educational opportunities. We offer a “one stop shop” for meeting child care licensing training requirements including pre-licensing, medication administration, universal precautions, First Aid/CPR, and ongoing training related to the Colorado Core Knowledge content areas. In addition, we operate a federally registered Child Care Apprenticeship Program, where participants receive college credit training, a student support package, and on site technical assistance. For information on scheduled trainings or to register call 303 914-6307 or to schedule a customized training call 303 914-6274.

Grants: Based on local county initiatives, Child Care Innovations manages a variety of programs to provide grants for start up of family child care homes, program quality assessments, and related quality improvements.

HUD Homeless Voucher Program: Working in partnership with case managers, we pay for up to thirty days of child care for eligible families meeting the federal definition of homelessness. For more information call 303 914-6584.

Quality Improvement Coaches: Child Care Innovations contracts with individual child care facilities and community agencies to provide on site technical assistance for quality improvement. Services include assistance in development and/or implementation of formal quality improvement plans in alignment with various accreditations, Qualistar Rating, or for correction and improvement of licensing violations.

Triad Early Childhood Council: Child Care Innovations provides primary staffing for activities of the Council serving the counties of Jefferson, Clear Creek, and Gilpin. Early Childhood Councils work to coordinate, collaborate, and consolidate programming to improve the access and quality of early childhood services across the domains of early care and education, health, mental health, and family support. Call 303 914-6527 for more information.

**For general information about programming, contact Patricia Bolton, Director
303 914-6527 or pat.bolton@rrcc.edu**