

CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL OF CENTRAL IOWA

DALLAS COUNTY 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

www.centraliowachildcare.org

515-993-3813

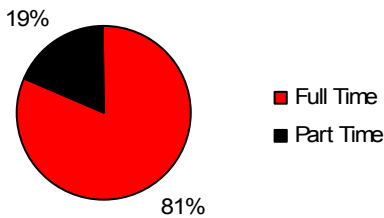
800-722-7619



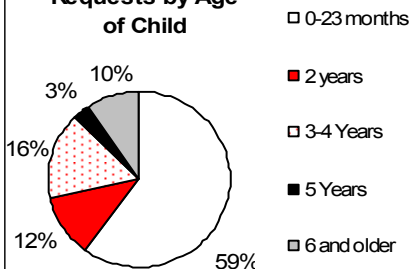
CHILD CARE NEEDS

775 referrals to early care and education options were completed in FY 09.

Full Time-Part Time Requests



Requests by Age of Child

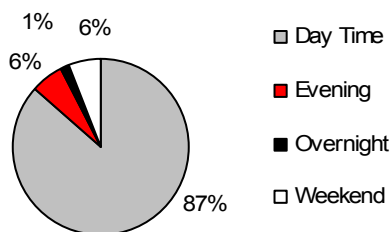


Parents say about referral services:

"... thanks for your help! I appreciate your prompt reply. Child care can be slightly overwhelming with your first child and you have no idea where to begin. I'll take a look at your enclosed materials."

"Thanks for your response...through the use of your web site, my husband and were able to find child care. I appreciate your time and consideration!"

Requests by Shift



Child Care Supply:

In Iowa, a private child care home caring for five or less children is legally allowed to be unregulated. Continuing a three year trend, the number of unregulated homes decreased in Dallas County while the number of registered child care homes increased. Although the registration process is not stringent (providers self certify their compliance with state requirements), a decrease in the number of unregulated homes *increases the odds of the provision of quality care.*

All child care centers, preschool and school age programs are regulated either by the Department of Human Services or the Department of Education. The number of child care center and school age



programs increased in FY09. With an expansion of the state's voluntary preschool initiative, each year more preschools are monitored by the Department of Education.

Child Care Demand:

2000 census data indicated the county's population increased 37% , fastest in the state,. There was a 38% increase in the number of children under the age of eighteen. **70% of children under six years of age had all parents in the labor force, needing child care.**

A referral counselor gave parents child care referrals, program vacancy, quality indicator and state regulatory information.

The **CCR&R web site, centraliowachildcare.org**, offered an optional online referral service to meet the needs of young parents searching for child care.

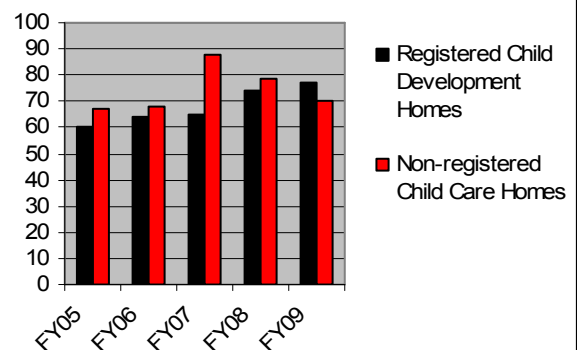
CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

	FY08	FY 09
Non-registered Child Care Homes	79	70
Registered Child Development Homes	74	77
Centers	15	17
School Age Centers	10	13

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

	FY 08	FY 09
Independent and school based	15	25
Head Starts	3	3
Shared Visions	1	1

Child Care Homes



**CCR&R of Dallas County
ISU Extension
28059 Fairground Road,
Adel, IA 50003**

**515-993-3813 (office)
515-480-7622 (cell)
515-993-4281 (fax)**



Dallas County
Empowerment

Child Care Quality

Nationally, Iowa ranked in the bottom ten states for regulation and oversight of child care programs.

In Dallas County, quality standards higher than state requirements were met by two NAEYC accredited centers, three Head Start programs, one Shared Vision preschool, and eight Department of Education QPPS preschools.

Programs participating in Iowa's voluntary Quality Rating System (QRS) also moved toward higher quality standards.

CCR&R of Dallas County provided education, resources, supports and grants for child care programs to help them meet the requirements of registry/licensing and improve quality. For example, one hundred ninety-one hours of classes were offered.

Lending a Helping Hand

Child Care Services Coordinator
Coordinates training, provides resources for all providers and on-site consultation for centers, preschools & school age programs.

Home Consultant
Provides resources and on-site consultation for child development home providers; registered and non-registered.

Parent Referral Counselor
Provides resources and free referrals to families searching for quality child care.



Reach for the Stars (RFTS)



Forty-two programs, homes, centers and preschools received Reach for the Stars grants with on-site consultations to guide quality improvement purchases and practice changes and to support QRS participation.

Of the programs who received RFTS grants; thirty-three percent of the child development homes, one hundred percent of the child care centers and fifty-six percent of the preschools entered, increased the rating in or maintained QRS participation.



Providers say about RFTS grant opportunities:

“Newly purchased changing table is next to a sink for easy hand washing and clean-up, increasing health and safety conditions...”

“(purchase of) appropriate sized chairs for all helped reach ERS and QRS standards...”



QRS Rated Programs

