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## Just in time Parenting

CCRS, in partnership with the University of Illinois-Extension Family Life team has created Parent Educator Guides to accompany the *Just In Time Parenting* email newsletters. These guides include contributions from CCRS staff, Extension Family Life Educators, and undergraduate interns from the Department of Human and Community Development. Rebecca Swartz, Graduate Research Assistant to CCRS, coordinated this effort with support from Dr. Angela Wiley and Dr. Aaron Ebata. The *Just In Time Parenting* Newsletters are free, age focused, email newsletters that provide research-based information for parents and caregivers about the development of their young child. Guides have been created to support educators on how to introduce these materials to caregivers of young children. These guides were created for the prenatal period through the first year of the infant's life. Each guide includes a summary of key ideas and developmental milestones. Activities are also included to help creatively engage caregivers with the newsletter content. Web-based resources related to the newsletter content are also provided. CCRS and Extension offices in other states will begin to pilot trainings based on the Educator guides and will introduce the newsletters to providers in the coming year.

**CCRS**  
Child Care  
Resource Service

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## Annual Report FY2012

**CCRS**  
Child Care  
Resource Service



## Child Care Resource Service

Quality early care and education allows children to learn and families to stay working – a formula for success!

Directors: Angela Wiley & Brenda Eastham

Child Care Resource Service (CCRS), established in 1985, is a child care and educational referral support service for families, child care providers, and communities located in Champaign, Douglas, Iroquois, Macon, Piatt, and Vermilion Counties. CCRS is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). As part of the Department of Human and Community Development at the University of Illinois, CCRS is located in Bevier Hall. We are committed to strengthening families and child care providers.

### Our Mission

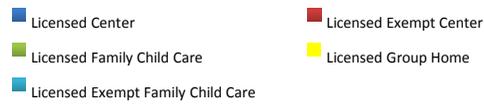
The Child Care Resource Service strives to support families, child care providers, students, and communities in their commitment to provide high quality childcare to all children and to make it accessible and affordable. We offer assistance and education as they work to develop excellence as advocates and professionals for children.

### Research

IDHS is required by federal legislation to conduct two research projects every other year. In 2012, the *Illinois Salary and Staffing Survey of Licensed Child Care Facilities* was conducted. This research documents the average wages, salaries, and benefits paid to child care practitioners throughout the state, the qualifications of new practitioners hired during the previous two years, the number of qualified practitioners who apply for vacant positions, and the difficulties centers face in engaging and retaining practitioners.

The dissertation research of Rebecca Swartz, a graduate research assistant to the Child Care Research Service, has been supported by a Child Care Research Scholar fellowship program of the Office of Planning Research and Evaluation at the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She has been working with state-level data from the Illinois Department of Human Services FY2011 Salary and Staffing Survey of Licensed Child Care Facilities and data collected through the Family Child Care Interview Project to learn more about the daily routines, support networks, and professional development experiences of Family Child Care Providers. Findings from this research will help CCR&R programs - like CCRS and the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies - to support the participation of Family Child Care Providers in their training and quality improvement efforts. Additional research projects in which CCRS is involved include *Abriendo Caminos: Preventing Childhood Obesity among Latinos*, *The Impact of the Recession on Child Care in Illinois*, and the *Attachment to Child Care Providers*.





Type of care being used by CCAP families



## Outreach

Information about our agency's service is shared at community fairs, employer events, children's carnivals, parent fairs, fiestas, conferences, school open houses, and many other events where we can target those in need of services. In fiscal year 2012, outreach staff made 81 networking contacts and 32 Community Collaborations. Over 800 materials were also shared with the community. A total of 91 provider recruitment contacts were made with persons interested in becoming a child care provider or in opening a center. This includes 54 start-up packets, 10 welcome visits, and 26 follow-up contacts.

## Parent Provider Services

When a parent is looking for a child care provider, they can call CCRS for a listing of child care providers that may be able to provide child care for them. In fiscal year 2012, staff provided lists to 759 families (for care of a total of 1,122 children). The majority of families (79%) who called for referrals had incomes at least 200% below the state median income. The families that requested referrals lived in 15 different counties and 2 states. Three percent were teen parents. The majority of callers, approximately 87%, were looking for care for employment reasons. Of those parents responding to follow-up surveys, 41% said they had no problem finding care, 28% said there were not enough openings, 7% said cost was a problem, and 9% said less-than-satisfactory quality prevented them from finding child care. Internet referrals began in June 2012. Since that time, 543 referrals were done on-line.

CCRS referral staff maintain a parent database of over 800 child care providers with space for over 20,000 children. Basic information is collected on each provider that is included on the list families receive when looking for child care. Because visits and monitoring of programs is not done through our agency, CCRS does not make recommendations. Parents are instead provided with check lists that contain indicators of quality care to assist them in finding the program that best suits their needs.

# Services for Families

## Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

The CCAP program is funded through the IDHS to assist income-eligible families in paying for child care services. CCRS administers this program in a 6 county region. In order to be eligible, parents must be working, going to school, training or participating in a work-related activity. During FY2012, CCAP funding paid for a portion of the child care costs for an average of 4,089 families, approximately 7,949 children per month.

In July 2012, due to the states continued financial issues, eligibility for the Assistance Program was reduced from 200 to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. On average, the 4,089 families are paying \$267,768 per month in co-payments. In addition, the state of Illinois pays monthly, on average \$2,658,086 in child care expenses for the children on the program. Information below is taken from the US Census Bureau, 2010.

County	Population	% of Persons under 5 years	% of Persons below poverty level	Median household income
Champaign	201,685	5.60%	20.50%	\$45,262
Douglas	19,836	7.00%	10.20%	\$46,941
Iroquois	29,475	5.30%	10.00%	\$47,323
Macon	110,730	6.30%	15.70%	\$44,337
Piatt	16,675	5.40%	7.60%	\$55,752
Vermilion	81,509	6.70%	18.70%	\$39,456
Illinois	12,869,257	6.40%	12.60%	\$55,735

# Services for Providers

## Professional Development Trainings

The training department collaborates with child care associations, as well as both state and local agencies within our six counties, to meet the needs of child care providers with respect to training, education, and technical assistance. In fiscal year 2012, training staff offered 240 trainings. Over 3,500 participants attended the trainings. The total participant hours were just over 9,300 hours. Of the 240 trainings offered, 126 were workshops, 54 series sessions, and 10 were cancelled (due to low registration).

## Quality Rating System (QRS)

The Quality Counts QRS system assists Illinois child care programs in providing quality care for children and their families. The system offers progressive levels which providers can achieve depending on the type of care they provide. Specific quality criteria must be met to achieve each level. Once a child care provider has met the requirements for that level, they will be recognized for their achievement. Those providers serving families using the CCAP program will receive a quality add-on rate to the standard CCAP reimbursement rate. Several providers are working on accreditation as well, which will make their programs eligible for a quality rating at Star Level 3 once achieved. In 2011 a monthly average of \$26,252 was paid to child care providers in our 6 counties for achieving their QC QRS rating. This was in addition to their daily state rate and parent co-payment. In 2012, the monthly average increased to \$41,033.95.

## Van Program

The van program is a community education program for child care providers and the families they serve. It focuses on issues of quality child care. In order to help child care providers enhance the literacy aspects of their programs, which is a key indicator of quality child care, CCRS regularly visits providers and offers literacy materials with the Quality Counts van. In fiscal year 2012, 565 licensed family child care homes and 87 licensed child care center programs were visited throughout our six counties. We also reached out to 134 license-exempt family child care homes to provide them with free books and community resources that they could use in their homes to enhance the quality of their programs.

## Grants

Professional Development Funds (PDF) and Accreditation Assistance Funds (AAF) grants are designed to support individual pursuit of professional development in early care and education. Providers participating in educational events or those trying to obtain a variety of early childhood credentials can be reimbursed for their expenditures. In FY2012, \$16,730 through 228 grants was distributed to individual providers. Center program staff (200) were more likely to apply for funds than family child care staff (22). AAF funds enable providers to pursue program accreditation. Seven providers received a total of \$2,722 for accreditation assistance.

The QCCC grants are provided by IDHS to improve the quality and the capacity of programs throughout the state. In FY2012, CCRS distributed \$217,458 to local child care providers.



## Infant-Toddler Specialist

The Infant-Toddler Specialist provides a number of services to child care providers, including consultations and training on topics related to developmentally-appropriate practice with infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds. In addition, assistance in understanding and using the Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS) is provided. In FY2012, activities included 32 series sessions and 44 workshops. Over 400 providers participated in Infant-Toddler activities.

## Early Childhood Mental Health Conslt. (ECMHC)

The Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant offers CCRS child care providers on-site consultations, technical assistance, and trainings regarding a variety of issues. In fiscal year 2012, 248 consultations with 144 hours of face-to-face service, 142 technical assistance contacts with 31 hours of face-to-face service, and 20 training presentations yielding 41 training hours were provided to 385 total participants. The majority of providers requested a Mental Health consultation related to behavior and child management (62%), social emotional issues (59%), and child development (27%). Additional topics included self-regulation, program issues, and the impact of trauma and violence on children.