

## Strategies for Improving the Availability of Quality Child Care in Oregon

### Improving Salaries / Compensation

Oregon CARES: <http://www.ccw.org/pubs/OregonCARESoverview.pdf> - Oregon CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourage Stability) is intended to help build and reward a skilled and stable workforce throughout Oregon through two major components, wages stipends and scholarships.

### Health Insurance Benefits Pool

- Link to current options: <http://www.healthcareforchildcare.org/> - This website is designed to serve as a pathway to health insurance for child care providers. Whether you are an employer, an employee or self-employed in the child care field, this website is designed to guide you through health insurance options that exist for you and your family.
- Support of public policy to gain access to health care for child care providers:
  - AFSCME Council 75 (Union representation for licensed family child care providers): <http://www.oregonafscme.com/>
  - SEIU Local 503 (Union representation for exempt family child care providers): [http://www.seiu503.org/child\\_care/index.cfm](http://www.seiu503.org/child_care/index.cfm)

### Professional Development, Training / Education

#### Scholarships & Grants for Training that Lead to Progress on the Oregon Registry

- Oregon Registry: <http://www.centerline.pdx.edu/> - The Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education (OCCD) provides leadership in the development and operation of integrated and statewide professional development standards and systems. OCCD promotes professional development to achieve high quality care and education for children and youth, and creates and supports training and education.
- The Oregon Community Foundation Statewide Scholarship Program: <http://www.centerline.pdx.edu/>
- Statewide Training Calendar: [www.oregonchildcaretraining.org](http://www.oregonchildcaretraining.org)
- School-age Training Calendar: <http://www.oregonask.org/events.cfm>  
Classes and events

#### Specialized Training and/or Certificate Programs for Center Directors

- Child Care Director Certificate (for Directors, Assistant Directors & Lead Staff in licensed & legally exempt child care programs) For more information contact Merrily Haas at 503-233-0190 or by email: [oregonaeyc@covad.net](mailto:oregonaeyc@covad.net)

#### Specialized Training and/or Certificate Programs for Working with Infants/Toddlers

- I/T Mental Health Certificate: <http://www.ectc.pdx.edu/about.shtml> - The Early Childhood Training Center (ECTC) has been providing training, technical assistance, research, and evaluation services to Head Start and other human service programs in the Northwest, nationally, and internationally since 1965.

*They are part of CE/ED at Portland State University, and provide a variety of consultation, course work, and program design and implementation services.*

- I/T Child Development Associate (CDA): [www.cdacouncil.org/](http://www.cdacouncil.org/) - *Founded in 1985, the Council for Professional Recognition is a non-profit organization located in Washington, DC. The Council promotes improved performance and recognition of professionals in early childhood care and education — the people who work with children from birth through five years of age in early childhood centers, family child care homes, and as home visitors.*
- Family Child Care Development Associate (CDA): <http://www.cdacouncil.org/> - *Founded in 1985, the Council for Professional Recognition is a non-profit organization located in Washington, DC. The Council promotes improved performance and recognition of professionals in early childhood care and education — the people who work with children from birth through five years of age in early childhood centers, family child care homes, and as home visitors.*

Specialized Training and/or Certificate Programs for Working with preschoolers

- Preschool Child Development Associate (CDA): <http://www.cdacouncil.org/> *same as above.*
- Family Child Care Development Associate (CDA): <http://www.cdacouncil.org/> *same as above.*

Specialized Training and/or Certificate Programs for Including Children with Special Needs

Inclusive Child Care Program (Development of Caring Communities):

[http://www.ocdd.org/inclusive\\_child\\_eng.htm](http://www.ocdd.org/inclusive_child_eng.htm) - *The Inclusive Child Care Program serves families of children from birth through 17 years of age who have physical, developmental, mental, emotional, behavioral, or medical disabilities and need extra supports to be cared for in typical child care settings.*

- TRAC Training (0 – 8)
- Opening Doors (Kits Included together)

Specialized Training for Working with Mixed-age Groups

- Family Child Care Development Associate (CDA): <http://www.cdacouncil.org/>
- Resource Article: *In The Mix*: <http://www.centerline.pdx.edu/>

Specialized Training and/or Certificate Programs for Working with School-age Children in Child Care Settings

- State profiles of school-age initiatives: <http://www.nccic.org/afterschool/results.php?category=15&state>
- Resource Links for school-age: <http://www.centerline.pdx.edu/>

## **Consultation Services**

Consultation services linked with environmental improvements of child care facilities such as use of environment rating scales, mini-grants for safety items, toys and educational equipment, and financial/or technical assistance for program accreditation.

Examples of Process/Environmental Indicator tools include but are not limited to the following:

- Environment Rating Scales: <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~ecers/Frame12.htm>
  - Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale, Revised Edition (ITERS-R) - *Designed to assess group programs for children of preschool through kindergarten age, 2½ through 5.*
  - Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, Revised Edition (ECERS-R) - *Designed to assess group programs for children from birth to 2½ years of age.*
  - Family Day Care Rating Scale (FDCRS) - *Designed to assess family child care programs conducted in a provider's home.*
  - The School-age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS) - *Designed to assess group-care programs for children of school age, 5 to - 12.*
- QUINCE: <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~quince/index.cfm> - *The Quality Interventions for Early Care and Education (QUINCE) study is a multi-state study of two assessment based, individualized on-site consultation models: The Partnerships for Inclusion (PFI) consultation model, to be implemented in California, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and North Carolina, and the Ramey's Immersion Training for Excellence (RITE) consultation model, to be implemented in Mississippi. The consultation will consist of child care provider training for providers and teachers in both centers and homes, but will have a special emphasis on providers in family child care homes, including license-exempt care. The goal of this research is to determine the conditions under which very specific assessment based, on-site consultation models of child care provider training will enhance the quality of the family home or child care classroom and will also result in positive child change.*

Links to Program Accreditation (See Facilities Improvement)

Health/mental health consultation services to child care providers that link with existing child care initiatives

- Child Care Health Consultation Demonstration Program:  
<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ch/hcco/eval.shtml> - *The Child Care Health Consultation Program provides consultation services in Oregon through demonstration projects in five demographically and geographically diverse counties. The vision of the program is to develop "beacons of excellence" for the future development of child care health consultation services in the state. The program has been providing consultation services to child care providers since March 2003, seeking to improve the physical, social, and emotional health of young children through activities and services.*
- Head Start Collaboration Project:  
<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=41> - *In Oregon, Head Start is jointly funded by the federal Head Start Bureau and the Oregon Department of Education. Oregon Head Start Pre-kindergarten (OHSP) is available in all 36 counties in Oregon. OHSP serves low-income children, 3-5 years old and their families. Early Head Start serves families with pregnant mothers and children birth-3.*
  - "A Blueprint for Action"

- The Oregon Model
- Introducing the Oregon Model

Early Childhood Education Specialist

Mental Health Consultant

Special Needs Consultation

- Partnering with Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Ed (EI/ECSE): <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=252> - *The Oregon Department of Education is the lead agency for the statewide system of early intervention and early childhood special education services for families with children ages birth to five that have developmental delays*
- National Early Childhood TA Center (NECTAC) Clearinghouse: <http://www.nectas.unc.edu/chouse/adjhome.asp> - *The NECTAC Clearinghouse on Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education is integral to NECTAC's role in linking people and knowledge. Through working relationships with knowledge producers and users at all levels: researchers, policy makers, practitioners, families and advocates for young children with special needs, they identify new information resources and share them via the web site, discussion groups, and eNotes.*

School-age Consultation

Mentoring: <http://www.oregonchildcare.org/forproviders/mentoring.htm> - *The mentoring program supports childhood care and education professionals through a system linking experienced mentors with mentees. The goal is to increase professionalism in the field and raise the quality of child care provided in Oregon.*

Business

Resource Team Model

Grants for Short-term Consultations

## **Facilities Improvement**

Grants to Meet Licensing Requirements

- CCD Licensing Requirements: <http://www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/CCD/forProviders.shtml> - *The Child Care Division (CCD) was established within the Oregon Employment Department in 1993 to highlight the importance of child care in developing and maintaining a diverse, multi-skilled workforce. The division supports families by promoting a statewide child care system that is safe, of high quality, affordable, and accessible. The division assures the safety of children in care by certifying child-care centers and certified family homes, registering family child-care homes, and investigating complaints about providers.*

## Grants for Accommodations

- Information about creating inclusive settings:  
Inclusive Child Care Program: [http://www.ocdd.org/inclusive\\_child\\_eng.htm](http://www.ocdd.org/inclusive_child_eng.htm) - *The Inclusive Child Care Program serves families of children from birth through 17 years of age who have physical, developmental, mental, emotional, behavioral, or medical disabilities and need extra supports to be cared for in typical child care settings.*
- Oregon Commission on Children and Families, Best Practices / links:  
<http://egov.oregon.gov/OCCF/Mission/BestPrac/bestcc/mibestccCCSpecialNeedsEC.shtml> - *Inclusive child care provides numerous benefits for all involved. Child care is a natural learning environment, a place where children experience everyday and typically occurring activities that promote and enhance development. Successful inclusion of children with disabilities does not just happen. Research has shown that developmental gains for children with disabilities may not occur by simply placing children with disabilities in programs with typically developing children. Successful inclusion requires continued commitment, planning, and collaboration.*
- Individuals With Disabilities Act (IDEA)  
<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=260>

## Accreditation

- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC):  
<http://www.nafcc.org/include/default.asp> - *NAFCC is dedicated to advocating for the family child care profession by collaborating with other local, state, and national organizations who contribute to the family child care field to increase awareness about and improve the quality of family child care.*
- National Association for The Education of Young Children (NAEYC):  
<http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/> - *For more than 80 years, the National Association for the Education of Young Children has worked to raise the quality of programs for all children from birth through age eight. A major part of NAEYC's efforts to improve early childhood education is through different systems of accreditation for programs that are committed to meeting national standards of quality.*
- National After-School Association (NAA):  
<http://www.naaweb.org/accreditation.htm> - *The credibility, strength, and success of NAA's Program Improvement and Accreditation System relies largely on the pool of highly qualified Endorsers, an elite group of experienced professionals who are trained to accurately and consistently interpret the NAA Standards for Quality in a wide variety of after-school programs around the world.*

## Infrastructure/Systems Development

Enhance Core Services of the Resource & Referral Agencies:

<http://www.oregonchildcare.org/> - *The Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network (OCCRRN) is a statewide network of 17 community based child care resource and referral agencies that work to improve the quality, accessibility, and affordability of child care for all Oregon families.*

Core Services Include:

- Provide referrals and education to parents

- Recruit and educate new providers
- Provide assistance to businesses on work/life initiatives:
  - Employer Supported Child Care
- Maintain a database of child care supply
- Planning and analysis for local child care issues

#### Provider Networks

- Oregon Family Child Care Network:  
<http://oregonfamilychildcarenetwork.org/index.htm> - *The mission of OFCCN is to promote an effective exchange of information between family child care providers and other childhood care and education system partners in order to enhance the quality of care for children in Oregon*

#### Quality Indicators

### **Cultural and Language Diversity**

Recruitment, Support, and Training for Non-English Speaking Providers

Funding for Translation Services

### **Other Quality Initiatives**

#### Literacy / Readiness Initiatives

- Early Words
- After Words
- Story time Express

Family, Friend, Neighbor (DHS Listed) Initiatives

## **OTHER RESOURCES**

Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF):

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/ccdf/index.htm> - *The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) has made available \$5 billion to States, Territories, and Tribes in fiscal year 2006. This program, authorized by the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, and Section 418 of the Social Security Act, assists low-income families, families receiving temporary public assistance, and those transitioning from public assistance in obtaining child care so they can work or attend training/education.*

CCDF Fact Sheet: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/ccdf/factsheet.htm>

Child Care & Early Education Research Connections:

<http://www.childcareresearch.org/discover/index.jsp> - *Research Connections offers a comprehensive and easily searchable collection of more than 10,000 resources from the many disciplines related to child care and early education.*

Child Trends: <http://www.childtrends.org/> - *The Early Childhood Development Area focuses on children's development from birth through early elementary school. They focus on the multiple dimensions of children's development, including early language and literacy, social skills and emotions, motivation, general cognition, and physical health and motor skills. This area examines how early care environments contribute to children's development. They study the features of high-quality environments, professional development for the early care and education workforce, and effective strategies for improving the quality of children's early experiences, both at home and in child care.*

## **What Your Library Can Do For You (For Free!)**

### **Oregon Public Libraries**

<http://www.publiclibraries.com/oregon.htm>

<http://www.olaweb.org/oregon-libraries.shtml>

Find your local library and check out their website to see what resources, classes, and programs they have for you and your children. Warning, not all libraries have websites.

### **Oregon Library Directories**

<http://oregon.gov/OSL/LD/directories/pldir.pdf> (pdf)

<http://oregon.gov/OSL/LD/directories/pldir.doc> (word)

If your library doesn't have a website, look up their address and phone number.

Every library is different, but most have resources for parents, childcare providers, and children. Ask your librarian if your library has...

- Storytimes for children
- Special programs for children\*
- Books on tape/CD for children
- Children's music
- CDroms for children
- Theme bags for children\*
- Theme bags for parents and childcare providers\*
- Puppets, stuffed animals, puzzles, and other educational toys for children
- Resources for parents and childcare providers\*
- Classes for parents and childcare providers\*
- Librarians that will go to your childcare center to do storytimes
- Tubs of books that libraries deliver to your childcare center on a regular basis
- Classes you can take to earn continuing education credit

- Educational video programs you can use to earn continuing education credit
- Resource gathering\*

**Special programs for children:** these may include play groups, puppet shows, activity hours, Read to the Dogs, music programs, etc.

**Theme bags for children:** these look different at every library, it is usually a bag that contains 3-4 books, 1 music tape/CD, and 1 educational toy on a particular theme like transportation, going to the doctor, animals, families, first day of preschool, etc. Libraries usually have a series of these available, the bag and its contents check out as if it were one item, and frequently they have developmentally appropriate bags for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

**Theme bags for parents and childcare providers:** these are like the bags for children, but the bag will contain resources for parents and childcare providers in addition to items for children. This may be a parenting book and an activity guide that provides suggestions for things they can do with their children to enhance their experience with the materials in the bag.

**Resources for parents and childcare providers:** this may include parenting books, child development books, programming books, magazines, CDroms, booklists, information on other local play groups or organizations etc. This also includes children's books on issues like potty training, going to the doctor, a death in the family and so forth that are designed for children and adults to read together.

**Classes for parents and childcare providers:** this may include baby sign language, how to do developmentally appropriate storytimes, early literacy education, etc.

**Resource gathering:** some libraries will gather resources for childcare providers. For example, if you are doing a bug theme at your center you can ask the librarians to pull together resources on bugs for you and your children. They may get things like curriculum planning, children's books, videos, music, CDroms, and activity guides that have to do with bugs for you to check out.