



DELAWARE CHILD DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE & REFERRAL



2012-13

Annual Report 2012-2013

The Delaware Child Development Resource and Referral Program under the umbrella of the Washington County Child Care Foundation continue to provide quality resources and connections to child care providers in the North Central region.

Delaware Child Development Resource & Referral

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

Delaware Child Development Resource and Referral has experienced an outstanding year in trainings, events, and services to providers and parents. The work in each of the nine counties we serve has not only been consistent but increasing throughout the year.

We have an exciting opportunity in the coming months and fiscal year to increase quality early learning experiences for children through the new Family Child Care Home Network being established for Washington and Nowata counties. Additional grant funding will support the staff and resources to connect Family Child Care Homes with outstanding materials, monthly guidance, and added technical assistance to gain knowledge and make strides in professional development. We anticipate that this network will be the beginning of a strong collaboration where child care providers realize the benefits of being connected to our Resource and Referral program as well as the connection to other providers.

An exciting change came when the Ponca City satellite office was relocated in February 2013 to Stillwater, OK. After much searching and analysis, the decision was made to move the office to Stillwater based on demographic changes and the opportunity to be more centrally located for training and assisting the providers in the counties we serve: Kay, Lincoln, Logan, Osage, Payne, Pawnee, Noble, Nowata, and Washington. We have a beautiful new location in Fountain Square on the southwest side of Stillwater. An Open House held in March 2013 was a fantastic event and an excellent introduction to the community. Many child care providers, parents, and several community members were in attendance. We foresee great work at this location!

Over the past year our staff has had several opportunities to visit with legislators about the importance of quality child care. The following is an excerpt from a report by DCD R&R Specialist Codie Warner and her experience with advocating at our nation's capital:

“During my trip to DC as a parent advocate, I had the opportunity to meet other parents who were going through some of the same challenges with child care costs and availability. We shared our stories with one another (some tragic) and

attended sessions together. As parents, we met with HHS representatives, and they were so enthralled with our stories and asking questions that the meeting went overtime. Our input and feedback will help shape the new minimum standards for the Child Development Block Grant. I most definitely learned that my voice does make a difference!”

Our work continues to include being active in communicating with legislators and staying abreast of recent legislation that affects child care. Our organization places great value and importance on utilizing opportunities to be certain our legislators are equipped with excellent information to make the best decisions for children and families.

We are constantly working to ensure that the services available in our Resource Rooms are publicized and utilized - books, kits, and curriculum are among the top resources checked out by individuals. We have a Resource on Wheels program in which we deliver and exchange materials with providers who do not have the opportunity to visit our offices. Thanks to contributions from area civic organizations we are adding books and updating supplies to include items requested by child care providers.

Resource and Referral staff has also participated in many community events that serve families and children: maternity fairs, health fairs and county events where we have the opportunity to publicize services. All staff participates in collaboration meetings, association meetings and resource meetings in the counties we serve. Our staff has also trained families in Head Starts and centers for their Family Night events on topics such as Challenging Behavior and Positive Discipline.

Providers have received professional development plans to help guide them in obtaining and making the decision for which plan best suits their need; for example CDA, Certificate of Mastery, Director’s Credential, Scholars for Excellence and instruction in the benefits of the REWARDS program. Our staff has assisted numerous centers and homes with establishing their professional development ladder certificate and how to navigate the Oklahoma Registry. A variety of trainings have been made available at no cost. Training needs are being assessed frequently and communication of offerings is published each month in our e-newsletter.

We are active in increasing the quality of care through our Technical Assistance Visits:

- Supplying monthly and bi-monthly lesson plans upon visits
- Helping providers address challenges and prepare for site visits (ECERS/FCERS)
- Improving policies and procedures and/or starting a new center/FCCH
- Assisting providers who are in non-compliance and helping them to achieve

- compliance and gain professional development
- Support with Parent Communication
- Training on Wheels-providers receive training on a variety of topics needed
- Room Arrangement
- Encouragement and networking

A great strength of our organization is in our relationships with the communities we serve. An excellent example of this is our Ride and Read program that has been such a wonderful connector for businesses and centers or Family Child Care Homes. Participants from area businesses accompany our staff to centers and homes to read age appropriate literature and then gift the center or home with books from the Kiwanis program. We received outstanding feedback from both participants and providers and will continue to offer this each fall in conjunction with our Day of Caring activities.



Trainings in all counties have been outstanding but one in particular that stands out which we been able to offer in 5 central locations are the Mind in the Making trainings by author Ellen Galinsky. This series has been an exceptional growing experience for participants and they report tremendous results from building knowledge that can be applied immediately each week which has strengthened best practice.

Delaware Child Development Resource and Referral will continue to maintain excellence in all services provided to the individuals who work with young children in order to create the best early childhood experiences for the children in North Central Oklahoma.