



DeKalb County Community Foundation

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2011 CommunityWorks Child Care & Early Education Drill Down

Overall Goal: The quality, availability and affordability of child care programs in DeKalb County have been increased and business support of child care programs has been increased.

What has been accomplished?

- ✚ In partnership with 4-C, created a full time Quality Rating System (QRS) Specialist position to work with eligible child care programs to assist in preparation for Quality Rating System – Star Rating. To learn more about the State of Illinois Quality Rating System visit:
http://www.four-c.org/quality_counts.html
- ✚ Identified a cohort of 10 eligible DeKalb County Child Care programs to participate in the CommunityWorks QRS program
- ✚ Seven of the 10 eligible DeKalb County Child Care programs have received a Star Rating of 2 or greater. Of the remaining three centers; one closed, one has made a decision on a corporate level not to pursue QRS, and one has yet to become involved in the QRS program.

Child Care Center	Star Rating as of 5/22/11
○ Children’s Learning Center	Star 3
○ Kishwaukee College Early Childhood Center	Star 3
○ NIU Campus Child Care	Star 4
○ NIU Child Development Lab	Star 3
○ Sycamore Child Care	Star 3
○ The Growing Place	Star 2
○ United Church Day Care & Preschool	Star 2

- ✚ Provided Quality Enhancement Grants to child care programs to meet identified needs relative to improvement on the QRS. A total of \$37,614 granted out between 2008 – 2010.

Child Care Center	QEG Total Received
○ Children’s Learning Center	\$8,892
○ Kishwaukee College ECC	\$9,383
○ NIU Campus Child Care	\$2,498
○ NIU Child Development Lab	\$7,794
○ The Growing Place	\$5,956
○ United Church Day Care	\$1,000
○ First Friends (closed)	\$2,091

- ✚ Co-hosted a DeKalb County Economic Development Business Roundtable event in 2009 “The Relationship of Child Care to Economic Development”.
- ✚ Provided training and resources to child care programs on how to build strategic relationships with key stakeholders. In February 2010 a Strategic Communication (branding, website development and image professionalization) workshop was held, representatives from nine centers were present. Representatives from two programs took advantage of free follow-up consultation.
- ✚ Scheduled training on Fund Development and other business practices to be held in February 2011.

What it means:

Child Care programs that participate in QRS receive a financial incentive based on the Star Rating. Programs receive a quality add-on rate for serving children eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) of 5% (Star 1), 10% (Star 2), 15% (Star 3) and 20% (Star 4).

- ✚ Total revenue from QRS for DeKalb County programs through 3/31/11 is: \$481,478.
- ✚ Return on Investment: Every \$1 committed to QRS by CommunityWorks has resulted in an approximate \$5.22 return. OVER 5X THE ORIGINAL INVESTMENT!
- ✚ Approximately 695 children have experienced increased quality of care by attending a QRS Star Rated child care center.

- ✚ Program Improvement narratives from centers (as a result of QRS participation):
 - “moved younger classrooms closer to bathrooms and dining rooms”
 - “updated public relations materials and logo”
 - “Modified health and safety practices”
 - “Classroom observations to set goals with teachers for school year”
 - “Added roomscapes to infant room to help with visual supervision”
 - “Completed long range planning”

- ✚ Centers top three reported anticipated use of additional revenue generated by QRS:
 - Staff salary
 - Equipment
 - Materials

- ✚ Four of the seven star rated centers are preparing to apply for Star 4 rating in 2011 – 2012, the highest rating available.

“The support of the QRS Specialist (Stephanie Saville) has been extremely helpful to our program. The DCCF (Quality Enhancement Grant) was also very helpful in allowing us to purchase materials that will enhance our program and increase scores. The most significant impact of our 3 star rating has been the additional dollars we receive through the subsidy payments” – Christine Hermann, NIU Campus Child Care

“Our Center has been helped tremendously by our QRS Specialist Stephanie and through DCCF Quality Enhancement Grants. The grants have helped us purchase new classroom equipment and furniture needed to perform well on the rating scales and provide an excellent environment for our children, teachers and parents.” – Steve Kimmel, Kishwaukee College Early Childhood Center

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Child Care Vision Committee Members

Stephanie Saville	4-C
Micki Chulick	4-C
Pam Wicking	4-C
Jan Fox	4-C
Jo Williams	McHenry County Community Foundation, Staff
Jesus Romero	DeKalb County Community Foundation, Board
Deanna Cada	DeKalb County Community Foundation, Staff
Elaine Suarez	DeKalb County Community Foundation, Staff
Lana Haines	DeKalb County Community Foundation, Board Chair, CommunityWorks Steering Committee