

# **Department of Workforce Services**

## **Utah Office of Child Care**

### **Helping you balance work and family**

#### **Child Care Resource and Referral**

The Office of Child Care supports Utah's child care resource and referral (CCR&R) network. This network provides community-based child care information and referral services.

The CCR&R network operates as a connecting point for child care providers, regulators, employers, educators, professional associations, and community service organizations.

Parents can call a locally based CCR&R and receive information to assist them in their search for quality child care.

CCR&R operates as point of entry for people interested in becoming child care providers. One of the many training and professional development workshops offered by CCR&R is an "orientation" that provides practical information on "how to" become a professional child care provider.

For more information call the:  
CCR&R Program Specialist  
801-526-4345

#### **Training and Professional Development**

The implementation of the Early Childhood Training Career Ladder brings to fruition a long-term goal of the Office of Child Care. The Career Ladder has been under development since 1992, and has included input from providers, parents, and specialist in early childhood care and education.

The Career Ladder will establish progressive levels of professional development training for early childhood workers, with a certificate issued for the completion of each level.

The first two levels of certification will be comprised of community-based training offered through Resource and Referral Agencies and other community-based early childhood organizations and associations. The second two levels of certification will be for college-level training.

We are very excited to begin implementation of the Early Childhood Training Career Ladder! With this program in place Utah will be joining a growing number of states throughout the U.S. who are implementing career ladder programs for early childhood workers.

For more information call the:  
Professional Development Program  
Specialist  
801-526-4363

## **School Age Initiatives**

The Office of Child Care administers state and federal funding in support of “Out of School Time” programs for youth.

Funding is available to the community for program start up or ongoing support by way of grants or contracts which are awarded through a competitive bid process.

In addition, the Office of Child Care will provide technical assistance to schools, parents, civic, profit and non-profit groups interested in developing out of school time programs to meet the needs of the local community.

The Office of Child Care works closely with the Utah School Age Care Alliance to Develop public and community awareness of the need for appropriate out of school time activities for youth.

For more information call the:  
School Age Program Specialist  
801-526-4343

## **Work/Life Support and Development**

The publication, “Utah Families are Everybody’s Business,” provides an overview of child and dependent care options and a step by step guide for employers to begin addressing these issues.

All successful strategies and initiatives begin with good data. For this purpose, the office recommends that employers begin the development of a work/life philosophy with the Child and Dependent Care Survey. The survey is an excellent resource for employers to use in the decision making process and is complimentary for Utah employers.

In January 1999, the Department of Workforce Services and the Office of Child Care presented the First Annual Work/Life Awards to “Utah’s Most Family Friendly Employers.”

The First Annual Work/Life Award Best Practices booklet is available upon request. The booklet features local and national company initiatives on “family-friendly” options from flexibility to on-site child care.

For more information call the:  
Work/Life Program Specialist  
801-526-4342

**“The Mission of the Office of Child Care is to help families be successful in the workforce through quality child care support systems.”**

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The Utah Office of Child Care believes that quality child care is met by properly addressing the needs of the whole child based on the following indications:

- adult to child ratio
- training of child care providers
- intentionality and professional development of child care providers
- family involvement
- planned/structured activities
- health and safety of environment