



Child Care Centers Benefit Children's Development

Quality child care provides many benefits. According to a study by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in 2007, children who attended a high-quality child care program before entering kindergarten had better vocabulary scores and experienced fewer disciplinary problems than children who did not attend child care. For hard working Denver families, quality child care can be expensive, but Denver County's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) can help.

CCAP is a federally funded program that helps eligible families pay for child care.

"CCAP offers families the ability to afford quality child care, providing an opportunity for their children to grow and learn important social and developmental skills," says Denver Human Services Executive Director Penny May. "These skills help children succeed not only in school, but also in their social lives."

According to Qualistar Early Learning Organization, the first step in finding quality care is contacting your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency to discuss options in child care and get answers to your questions.

Research done by Qualistar has found that children who attend a high-quality child care center:

- Demonstrate greater social skills.
- Excel in reading and math.
- Have better school attendance records.
- Are more motivated to learn and have a higher commitment to school.
- Are more likely to graduate from high school and pursue a post-secondary education or training.
- Exhibit a lower rate of unemployment.
- Have the potential for higher earnings over their lifetime.

CCAP offers parents a choice of a licensed day care provider, a licensed home provider or what is known as an exempt provider -- a family member, friend or neighbor who does not necessarily need to be licensed but does need to complete and pass a fingerprint and background check to participate as a CCAP provider.

To qualify for CCAP, parents must be working or in school and need child care services to support their efforts toward self-sufficiency. Applicants must provide verification of household income, address verification, Photo ID for adults and verification that children are permanent residents or citizens, and their current immunization records.

CCAP applications are accepted anytime. Applicants can call 720-944-KIDS to see if they qualify or visit www.denvergov.org/CCAP for more information. Spanish speaking customer service representatives are available.