

## **Child Care Providers Did you Know...?**

Child Care Resource and Referral Service information is **FREE** to all families in Okaloosa and Walton counties: There are no charges/fees associated with a provider listing in the Resource & Referral Database or for referrals to your program. If you are asked to provide a payment for a referral or listing in the Resource & Referral Database, please call the Agency for Workforce Innovation-Office of Early Learning Resource & Referral Network at 1-866-357-3239.

**Here's some other helpful information that will help you be well informed and assist you in being an important resource for children and their families:**

### **Inclusion Services**

The Early Learning Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties and Child Care Services provides an Inclusion Specialist to assist you by providing technical assistance, training, and resources to child care providers serving children with disabilities and /or special needs in Okaloosa and Walton counties. Please call Greta at 833-9330, ext.222 or email [ghock@owccs.org](mailto:ghock@owccs.org). Greta Hock provides training to child care providers on the following topics:

- ❖ Inclusion of Children with Disabilities
- ❖ Basic Sign Language
- ❖ ADD/ADHD
- ❖ Autism and Related Disorders
- ❖ Collaborating with Families/Family Support
- ❖ Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

**Additional help for children with suspected disabilities or special needs can be obtained by contacting:**

- ✓ **FDLRS (Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System)** is a network of nineteen regional centers and three specialized centers in Florida, which provides support services to educators, parents, and other professionals who work with exceptional students. [www.fdlrs.com](http://www.fdlrs.com)
  - **FDLRS/Westgate** office is located in Pensacola and provides Escambia, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa counties in northwest Florida with the following services:
    - Child Find (provides services for children 3-5 years)
    - Human Resource Development
    - Parent Services
    - Instructional Technology
      - Website-[www.fdlrswestgate.org](http://www.fdlrswestgate.org)
      - Walton County—1-877-873-7232 ext.2260
      - Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa County—1-888-445-9662
- ✓ **The Florida Directory of Early Childhood Services (Central Directory)** provides services to families and providers seeking advocacy, education, training, resource and referral, and information on disability services available in their communities.
  - Website-[www.centraldirectory.org](http://www.centraldirectory.org)
  - Central Directory/FDLRS—1-800-654-4440

- ✓ **Early Steps** (formerly DEI) serving children 1-3 years old
  - Website-[www.cms-kids.com](http://www.cms-kids.com) or
  - 1-800-654-4440
- ✓ **Statewide Inclusion toll-free line** 866-357-3239
- ✓ **Local Inclusion Warm Line** 850-833-9330 ext. 222

### Other Helpful Information and Resources for your Program:

- ✓ If you have questions about state mandated training, educational exemptions, and staff training requirements contact the Florida Department of Children and Families Child Care Training Services Center (CCTSC) at 1-888-352-2842 or [www.thechildrensforum.com/cctsc](http://www.thechildrensforum.com/cctsc)
- ✓ For general information on child development, challenging behavior, and Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ's), contact our Developmental Screening Specialists, Denise Lee 833-9228, [dlee@owccs.org](mailto:dlee@owccs.org) or Kelly Todd 833-9228, [ktodd@owccs.org](mailto:ktodd@owccs.org)
- ✓ To learn more about childhood health/illness concerns, contact our Community Health Nurse, Kathy Worthen at 833-9330 ext. 225 or [kworthen@owccs.org](mailto:kworthen@owccs.org).
- ✓ For helpful resources and infant/toddler program assessment, contact Monique O'Brien at 833-9330 ext. 205 or [mobrien@owccs.org](mailto:mobrien@owccs.org). Also, be sure to visit [www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org) for interesting articles focusing on infants and toddlers.
- ✓ To obtain information about opening a family child care program, or receive assistance with your existing family child care home program, please contact our Early Childhood Specialist, Debra Self at 833-9330 ext. 234 or [dself@owccs.org](mailto:dself@owccs.org).
- ✓ A lending library is available for you to check out items, which will enhance your child care program. Contact Kicha Rouse at our Education Center at 833-9336, or email her at [krouse@owccs.org](mailto:krouse@owccs.org).
- ✓ For general program support and information concerning program assessments, accreditation, and quality assistance, contact Monique O'Brien at 833-9330 ext. 205 or [mobrien@owccs.org](mailto:mobrien@owccs.org).
- ✓ We also offer program resources and support through our mobile resource van. Contact Beth Hoffman at 833-9330 ext. 230 or [ehoffman@owccs.org](mailto:ehoffman@owccs.org).
- ✓ If you have questions regarding literacy or literacy assessments, please contact Monique O'Brien at 833-9330 ext. 205 or [mobrien@owccs.org](mailto:mobrien@owccs.org).

#### Websites for information and services

Voluntary Prekindergarten: [www.floridajobs.org/earlylearning/VPK%20Program.html](http://www.floridajobs.org/earlylearning/VPK%20Program.html)

Early Learning Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties: [www.elc-ow.org](http://www.elc-ow.org)

AWI/OEL: [www.floridajobs.org/earlylearning/indes.html](http://www.floridajobs.org/earlylearning/indes.html)

Licensing website: [www.myflorida.com/childcare](http://www.myflorida.com/childcare) or 1-888-352-2842

Department of Education/OEL: [www.fldoe.org/earlylearning](http://www.fldoe.org/earlylearning)

Child Care Aware: [www.childcareaware.org](http://www.childcareaware.org)

NACCRRA: [www.naccrra.org](http://www.naccrra.org)

Florida KidCare: [www.floridakidcare.org](http://www.floridakidcare.org)

Abuse Registry: [www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse](http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse) or 1-800-96-ABUSE (22873)

Florida Child Care Resource and Referral Network:

<http://www.floridajobs.org/earlylearning/ChildCareResourceReferralNetwork.html>

Okaloosa Walton Child Care Services: [www.owccs.org](http://www.owccs.org)