



Sacramento County Quality Child Care Collaborative



About the Collaborative

The Sacramento County Quality Child Care Collaborative is a partnership of community agencies and educational and governmental institutions which is funded by the First 5 Sacramento Commission, an organization promoting the healthy development of children ages zero to five. The purpose of the collaborative is to help Sacramento County child care centers, family child care home providers and family, friend and neighbor caregivers provide quality child care programs for our children. Collaborative services are FREE. Child care center directors, teachers, aides, family child care home owners, aides, family, friend and neighbor caregivers, and parents can all access an array of services.

The services include:

- Information about child care, operating a child care business and services available in the community for both families and child care providers
- Resources to assess and improve the quality of child care in centers and homes
- Training to support parents and child care providers in child care and development
- Consultation to help providers assess and improve the quality of the services they provide to children and families and build their competence and confidence in caring for children with varying needs

Partial funding for the QCCC is provided by the First 5 Sacramento Commission which uses Proposition 10 (tobacco tax) funds to support the healthy development of children ages 0 through 5. Additional information about the First 5 Sacramento Commission is online at www.first5sacramento.net or by calling (916) 876-5865.



Information for Parents & Providers

The first step to receive services through the Quality Child Care Collaborative is to contact Child Action, Inc. at (916) 369-0191. Child Action, Inc. staff can provide information for parents and child care providers about:

- Child care referrals, including enhanced referrals for parents or guardians caring for children with special needs
- Upcoming training and professional development opportunities
- Library resources and equipment
- Handouts or information on a wide array of child care topics
- Advocacy opportunities to support quality child care

Resources for Parents

WarmLine Family Resource Center and Child Action, Inc. work together to provide enhanced referrals, information, resources, and transition services for parents of children with special needs who want help in finding and selecting a child care provider.

Child Action, Inc. offers workshops on Choosing Quality Child Care that help parents understand licensing standards and components of quality, as well as teach them to ask the “right questions.” The goal is to support families with diverse needs and those that are new parents and/or are returning to the workforce.

WarmLine Family Resource Center is committed to building quality inclusive communities by providing resources and support to families of children with special needs and child care providers serving those children and families.

Resources for Providers

Trainings & Workshops

The Quality Child Care Collaborative offers a number of free training opportunities. These trainings are available at community locations, child care programs, staff trainings, or parent meetings.

Child Action, Inc. offers training on topics such as curriculum development, inclusion, school readiness, child development, environmental assessments and quality improvement plans and health and safety.

The Child Abuse Prevention Council provides training to professionals and paraprofessionals in child abuse prevention and child development topics including, but not limited to: Mandated child abuse reporting, nurturing parenting, Happiest Baby on the Block, positive discipline, social emotional development, infant safe sleeping and family strengthening. Follow-up on-site technical assistance on implementation strategies is also available.

The Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health will provide consultation and training to parents and child care providers, staff, directors and family, friend and neighbor caregivers on behavioral issues that impact children 0-5. Follow-up consultation is also offered as needed to assist the with implementation of training concepts.

The Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Public Health provides technical phone assistance and/or on-site training for child care providers on topics related to children’s health and safety, including hand washing, communicable diseases, immunizations, child passenger safety as well as interactive workshops on nutrition and lead poisoning.

The Program for Infant Toddler Care – Partners for Quality offers on-site training and technical assistance for child care centers, family child care home providers and family, friend and neighbor caregivers serving children birth to three. In addition, training is also available on California Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Program Guidelines, Foundations, Understanding the Behavior of Infants and Toddlers, Environments that Foster Learning and Development, and Curriculum Planning Process for Infants and Toddlers.

Sacramento Small Business Development Center (SBDC) trainings can include Business Basics, Business Plan Writing, Marketing Planning for Child Care, Budgeting, Facilities Needs Assessments, technical assistance and assistance with opening a child care center or expanding family child care homes to increase capacity.

UC Davis Center for Excellence in Child Development offers a Leadership Series for directors of center-based programs; it includes both training and technical assistance. Using the Program Administration Scale, program quality is addressed using a coaching model. In addition, a series of classes are available to licensed family child care providers, with an emphasis on school readiness. Classes are available in English, Spanish and Russian.

Sacramento County WIC Program – The Community Lactation Assistance Project (CLA) provides workshops and in-service training about breastfeeding issues and policies and practices for child care providers to assist them in developing and promoting supportive environments for breastfeeding mothers in their child care programs. On-site consultation is also available for child care programs requesting technical assistance or consultation on breastfeeding issues and/or concerns. The Project provides classes for parents and child care providers about breastfeeding and returning to work. Topics include pumping, proper milk storage guidelines and the how-to’s of maintaining mother’s milk supply while separated from her baby.



On-Site Technical Assistance

Child Action, Inc. staff is available to meet you at your work site and help you with a variety of needs from opening a family child care home or child care center, to supporting your efforts to provide a quality-rich environment for children. In addition, staff can provide you with information on best practices in early education, school readiness, curriculum, environment planning, health, safety and inclusion strategies.

Facility Development and Expansion

Child Action, Inc. offers a wide range of services that support individuals who have an interest in starting a family child care business or opening a child care center program. Help is available to assist with the step-by-step process of opening a quality child care center, along with start-up information needed to be a successful small business operator. Staff can assist potential owners in the planning stages by conducting a feasibility study that addresses child care supply and demand, assisting with the development of a business plan and developing start-up and operating budgets. Staff can also conduct site evaluations that will address zoning requirements, building and planning permits, fire code and inspections and Community Care Licensing regulations. Assistance with licensing applications, handbook and contract development and pre-licensing visits are also available to individuals who participate in the program.

Environment Rating Scale (ERS) Assessments

Program assessment is critical for the development of quality services and is a useful tool in training your staff about quality standards. The scales are internationally

recognized for their validity and reliability and depict what research supports as best practices when providing developmentally appropriate environments for young children. Child Action, Inc. staff are certified to conduct an environmental assessment of your child care center or family child care home. They can also assist you in developing a quality improvement plan based on the results of your assessment and offer on-going assistance in meeting your program goals.

Professional Development

CARES Stipends

The Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) Program is designed to provide training and support to caregivers along the entire continuum of care, from family, friend and neighbor caregivers to teachers with advanced degrees. The program encourages retention of caregivers in the field, and provides cash incentives or resources to further educational attainment. The target population of the CARES program is early childhood education staff, including home-based, licensed and license-exempt family child care providers, family child care assistants, and center-based staff in public and private child care programs in Sacramento County.

CSUS Sacramento

California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) coordinates professional development days for CARES participants to prepare them for the transition to a Bachelors of Arts program in Child Development. CSUS will provide a tour of the campus and access to financial and educational resources to support students in their transition to a four-year university. In addition, CSUS

will provide orientations and one-on-one advising to students who wish to apply to the state university.

Los Rios Community College District

Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD) provides professional development information to students pursuing a degree in early childhood education/child development.

Consultation

The Consultation Team is available to assist child care providers in addressing questions or concerns about caring for children with a variety of special needs and behaviors.

The Consultation Team members are Child Action, Inc., Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health, Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Public Health, WarmLine Family Resource Center and Sacramento County Office of Education – Infant Development Program. The team consists of staff with training and expertise in child development, behavioral health, family support and inclusion of children with developmental disabilities and other needs. The Consultation Team members are available to provide on-going consultation, technical assistance and training to child care providers to assist with issues of children's behavioral health, inclusion of children with special needs, quality of care, curriculum, site staff support, staff-parent communication and linkage to community resources.

The purpose of consultation is to offer information, strategies and resources to meet current and future challenges. Examples of issues the Consultation Team may be able to help with include:

- Concerns about behaviors of children in care
- Resources or information about a specific disability or special need
- Understanding parent perspectives and developing effective communication strategies
- Questions regarding child development
- Telephone support
- On-site observation and consultation resulting in strategies and an action plan
- Resources Lending library and materials

Library – Resources

Equipment

Child Action, Inc. maintains a library of resources available for loan to parents, teachers, child care providers and other child care professionals. The library contains books, videos, articles and other resources of interest. Some of the topics include:

- Child Care Administration
- Ideas for Working with Children
- Special Needs

- Parenting
- Infant and Toddler Care
- Health and Safety

In addition, child care providers can check out curriculum items or adaptive equipment if working with a child with special needs. These materials are intended to promote inclusive care.

Theme boxes are also available for checkout that contain a variety of age-appropriate materials and resources that can be used to expand the curriculum and provide fun activities for children to explore. Themes include math, science, infant-toddler, health and safety, and other common themes appropriate for young children. Theme boxes contain a variety of children's toys, materials and resource books.

Child Action, Inc. Career Center

Child Action, Inc. maintains an on-line career center for employers to post open positions and recruit potential employees. Job seekers may use the center to find positions in the early care and education field as well as information on developing resumes, writing cover letters, interviewing techniques and links to professional early care and education organizations.

For more information about any of the services described in this brochure and current trainings offered, visit the Child Action, Inc. website at www.childaction.org.

Quality Child Care Collaborative Partner Organizations

California State University, Sacramento

Child Abuse Prevention Council
of Sacramento, Inc.

Child Action, Inc.

Department of Health & Human Services,
Division of Behavioral Health

Department of Health & Human Services,
Division of Public Health

Los Rios Community College District

Sacramento County Office of Education,
Infant Development Program

Sacramento County WIC Program

Sacramento Small Business Development
Center

UC Davis Center for Excellence in Child
Development

WarmLine Family Resource Center

WestEd Program for Infant/Toddler Care