



Attention Parents! Does Your Child Need Assistance with Any of the Following Special Needs:

Challenging Behaviors , including Biting

ADD/ADHD

Down Syndrome

Speech/Language Delay

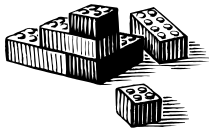
Cerebral Palsy

Vision/Hearing Loss

Allergies or Asthma

Physical/Motor Delays

Any Other Need Requiring Additional Care and Support



If You Answered "yes", Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) is Here to Help!

CCRR Offers FREE SERVICES for

Parents, Children, Child Care Programs, and Other Early Childhood Educators

Inclusion Services Available for Children and Families:

- A list of child care programs that can meet your child's needs.
- Education and counseling regarding appropriate child care options and community resources.
- On-site assistance/consultation/observation for the child care program of your choice.
- Library materials (including toys and children's books) available for check out (free of charge) on inclusion, specific disabilities, and quality care.
- Ongoing education for families in the community regarding: Quality child care standards, Benefits of inclusion, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and community resources.

For Assistance, Call 417-887-3545 or
800-743-849 Ask to speak to the Inclusion Specialist
www.ccochildcare.org

Serving 28 counties in Southwest/Southcentral Missouri

What is inclusion in child care?

❖ **What does an inclusive program look like?**

An inclusive program has the same characteristics as any other child care program. In an inclusive program, children with and without disabilities participate in the same routines and play experiences. Providers in inclusive programs learn to recognize children as distinct individuals with special strengths and needs. They continually make creative modifications to routines and activities so that each child benefits from participating.

❖ **Do all inclusive child care programs look the same?**

Child care programs and the providers who work in them are as different from each other as each child is different from another. Child care settings that retain their individuality enable families to choose the program that best suits their particular needs.

❖ **What are some of the benefits for children in an inclusive program?**

Early childhood programs provide a playful and natural environment for all children to grow and develop. The opportunity for children with disabilities to participate in these experiences with other young children has great value. Children become aware of differences and similarities between themselves and their peers. As they play together, they develop a sense that everyone, regardless of ability or disability, has an important contribution. In addition, children benefit from an environment where emphasis is placed on being responsive to individual strengths and needs.

❖ **What roles do parents and family play?**

If inclusion is going to work, parents must be included as well. Parents understand their child's strengths, needs, and interests. Collaboration with parents means asking for input and suggestions, sharing expertise, communicating regularly, and building a partnership strong enough to support the excitement and challenges of child care.

Adapted from: Child Care Plus+

CONSUMER RIGHTS AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

The American's with Disabilities Act is a federal law that entitles people with disabilities to the same rights of employment, state and local public services and public accommodations like restaurants, movie theaters, and child care settings.

Who is covered by the ADA?

The ADA applies to any child or adult who...

- has a disability
- is perceived to have a disability
- has a record of previously having a disability

Disabilities may include physical, mental and/or medical impairments. Any child must be accepted into a child care program, no matter what the disability, as long as space is available and reasonable accommodations can be made. The ADA does not cover communicable diseases like chicken pox or influenza.

When can services be denied?

The ADA allows programs to deny service...

- to a child who poses direct physical or health threat to the other children or staff
- to a child whose inclusion would fundamentally change the structure or purpose of the program

ADA FACTS:

Fact #1: Programs cannot charge more because a child has a disability or special need.

Increased tuition rates to cover additional costs that are incurred (such as hiring an additional teacher) must be charged to all families - not just the family of the child with the disability.

Fact #2: A program cannot refuse a child based on insurance coverage.

The ADA is very specific on this point because insurance requirements have been used frequently to exclude people with disabilities. Insurance companies must have proof that a person with a disability is a greater insurance risk in order for them to raise rates or cancel a policy. If a program is faced with higher rates or cancellation of a policy, legal action could be taken.

Fact #3: A program cannot use enrollment requirements to exclude a child from care- such as needing to be toilet trained or walking to enter a program.

The ADA states that enrollment policies and procedures should not intentionally, or unintentionally, exclude children with disabilities. Using criteria such as this screens out children with disabilities, which could be considered a violation of the law.

Fact #4: Enrollment forms may not inquire about the presence of a disability.

The forms used for admittance into a program should in no way request information that could be used in a discriminatory way. It is appropriate to ask about specific milestones or skills, only if the same information is collected on all children.

Fact #5: Religious entities are exempt for compliance with the ADA, but not STATE DISCRIMINATION LAWS.

The ADA defines "religious entity" as a religious organization or business controlled by a religious organization, including a place of worship.

Adapted from All Kids Count by ARC and materials created by Child Day Care Association in St. Louis.

SHARING INFORMATION ABOUT MY CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

When looking for a child care program, ask yourself....

- Am I looking for special education, or a program where my child can be supervised and have a chance to play and interact with other children?
- Does the provider need to be professionally trained or can I work with someone who is willing to learn?

The first things to ask a child care provider...

- Do they have openings for the age of your child?
- Will they meet your needs for hours and location?
- What is the cost for serving children of that age?

The next step..

- Share information about your child. Give positive information, as well as, the challenges he/she faces. Keep it simple. You don't need to tell each provider your child's whole story. Share enough information so that you and the provider can work together to decide if this is an appropriate setting for your child.
- Make an appointment with the Child Care Regulation office to read the program's file. This will notify you of any substantiated complaints or non-compliance issues the program has had.
- Some providers might be hesitant and nervous about providing care to your child, and they may express those concerns to you. That may be a good opportunity to schedule a visit to the child care provider. During the visit, you can discuss your child's abilities and challenges in greater detail and also address the concerns the provider might have.
- If you feel this setting is a possibility, schedule a time to bring your child for a visit before the first day of enrollment. This may or may not be possible due to your schedule, but it gives the child a chance to experience the environment for a short period while you are there. It also allows providers to ask important questions that will enable them to more thoroughly prepare for his/her first day.

Information to share with caregivers:

- Your child's communication style. This will help caregivers identify your child's wants and needs.
- Your child's physical capabilities. This will inform caregivers of any physical accommodations that might need to be made.
- Special equipment usage, if any, and how it is used. Make sure the provider has watched you use it and you have watched the provider use it before you leave your child.
- Assistance with self help activities like eating, toileting, dressing etc.
- Special dietary concerns
- Medication needs, if any. How often is medication given, how much, and any side effects that may occur.
- Behavioral concerns your child has and how to deal with them. Consistency in techniques between home and child care is essential.
- Activities your child really enjoys, as well as, any restricted activities.
- Other agencies involved with the care of your child. This will help the caregiver identify additional resources available to care for and accommodate the child.
- Additional relevant information, including doctor's records, IFSP's and IEP's, evaluations, etc.

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MISSOURI
CHILD CARE
RESOURCE
AND REFERRAL
NETWORK

Sponsored by the Council of Churches of the Ozarks
Member of the Child Care Resource and Referral Network
Primary funding through Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
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Services provided on a non-discriminatory basis.

