

Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education Informational Brochure

ABC UNIT- Created to offer high quality early education services to children birth to five exhibiting developmental and socioeconomic risk factors. There are three different ABC program models: Center-based programs, Home-visiting programs (HIPPI and PAT) and Family Child Care Homes. Providers are selected by their ability to offer a high-quality program. These abilities are assessed annually by early education professionals who evaluate the applications. Targeted areas for services are selected using data from benchmark test scores, school improvement lists, free-reduced lunch information, Head Start enrollment and kindergarten enrollment. ABC operates as a grant program. Participating providers must renew ABC grants annually.

Contact the ABC Unit at 1-800-445-3316 or 1-501-682-9699 for more information

COMPLIANCE UNIT- Works with the programmatic sections of the Division and other appropriate Divisions within the Department to coordinate and track issues dealing with provider fraud, overpayments and audits.

FAMILY SUPPORT UNIT- Developed to provide assistance for low-income families. Provides financial assistance for quality child care and is made possible by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). An applicant must meet the following criteria: meet established income guidelines; each adult residing in the household must be employed at least 30 hours per week and earning a minimum wage, or be enrolled and attending high school, college, GED classes, vocational school or a training program as a full time student. A combination of school and work is acceptable if the individual is involved at a minimum of 30 hours; meet child support requirements (must have an open child support case for each child requiring child care assistance); and have an eligible child (0-12 yrs of age).

Contact the Family Support Unit at 1-800-322-8176 or 1-501-682-8947 for more information

LICENSING/ACCREDITATION UNIT- Licensing specialists perform on site reviews of child care centers in addition to licensed homes and registered homes. They are also responsible for maintaining the Criminal Records Check System in conjunction with the Arkansas State Police. This system checks the criminal records and child maltreatment records of all workers in child care centers or licensed homes. The Accreditation Unit was developed to provide an opportunity for child care facilities to receive Approval certification from the State of Arkansas in recognition of quality programming. It was designed to increase the number of children in high-quality child care and to assist parents in locating programs that promote quality early learning for children. Parental tax credits and tax credits for employer related child care are available.

Contact the Licensing/Accreditation Unit at 1-800-445-3316 or 1-501-682-8590 for more information

PROGRAM SUPPORT UNIT- Provides a multitude of diverse services designed to improve the quantity and quality of child care services in the state. These services blend funds from state and federal sources.

Contact the Program Support Unit at 1-800-445-3316 or 1-501-682-9699 for more information

SPECIAL NUTRITION UNIT- Provides reimbursement for well-balanced, nutritious meals served to individuals enrolled in the Child Care and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Special Milk Program (SMP), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The program is available to the public, for profit and private nonprofit organizations providing licensed or registered non-residential day care services. Such organizations include childcare centers, adult care centers, outside school hour care, and daycare home organizations providing day care services for children with disabilities and/or special health care needs. Also, private for profit centers may qualify if at least 25 percent of the children who are receiving nonresidential care fall into the free and reduced category.

Contact the Special Nutrition Unit at 1-800-482-5850 or 1-501-682-8869 for more information



Physical Address:
700 Main Street
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S140
Little Rock, AR 72201
Website: <http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare/>



ASU Childhood Services ACQUIRE (Jonesboro and West Memphis)

All services are free of charge



Mission: to provide coordinated regional services that promote a high quality child care system that meets the needs of the community

Information provided to: families, employers, and providers

Provides: consumer education and parental choice in child care; information on how to choose a provider; a checklist for evaluating the quality of child care programs; profiles of regulated child care facilities; up-to-date listings of child care facilities to providers, businesses, and industry partners

Recruits: child care providers for care during non-traditional hours and documents trends in child care, specifically gaps between supply and demand

Impacts: local industry and business partners with an employer toolkit

Services and Training: provided to improve quality and help new and existing providers; Disaster Preparation Training; New Provider Start-Up Training; Resource Center/Lending Library; First Aid/CPR; New Provider "Organizing Your Day" Training; Healthy, That's Me, & other Nutrition Physical Activity Training; Curriculum Activities; Basic Computer Training; Parenting-Making First Experiences Count; Ready to Learn; referrals to providers to help build capacity; Dollars & Sense & other business training; co-sponsor annual Statewide Family Child Care Conference; technical assistance & other training opportunities; participate in national database

Child Care Connections, Inc.

Services are provided free of charge



Mission: provide services and information to the community, child care providers, and family to enhance the quality and availability of child care across the State of Arkansas

Assists: families in locating child care

Information provided: a database of all licensed and registered child care programs including child care centers, family child care homes, and preschools; parents can call or check online to find information and vacancies in child care; how to choose child care for families; assistance and information in child development and parenting

Trainings: Parent Education; Business Management, Program Development, community collaboration training, technical assistance to agencies and individuals wishing to establish a child care program or who have existing child care programs

Impacts: partners with businesses and industries in Pulaski County to provide benefits to employees such as child care referrals and parent education to families

CHILDREN of Northcentral Arkansas



(Children Hub for Information, Learning, Development, Resources, Education, and Networking)

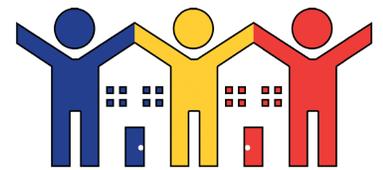
Description: a network of services dedicated to enhancing the quality and availability of childcare; advocating for children; and providing information, education, guidance and support to parents, providers, employers, and communities

Purpose: a regional child care resource and referral program providing referrals to parents seeking child care options through a database of licensed and registered child care facilities with vacancies meeting parents needs

Strives: to enhance the quality of child care through provider education/training; increase supply of care by helping to recruit providers to meet identified community needs; to provide technical assistance to present & prospective providers with the objective to promoting quality; and to serve as a trend spotter through careful data collection & act as a Community Change Agent through advocacy and partnership building

Services and Trainings: Annual children's concerts; spring & fall child care provider conferences; the Northcentral Arkansas Child care Resource Center and Lending Library; resource center pick-up and deliver and technical assistance services; Family Child Care Business Management Training; Family Child Care Provider Training; Money Matters - A training course for child care facilities focusing on grant writing, fund raising, partnerships and collaborations, budgets and justifications, and other "money matters"

Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

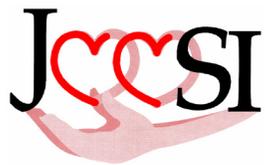


Mission: As good stewards of the public trust, we will support and advise the Division by ensuring that all Arkansas children and families have access to a safe, high-quality, developmentally appropriate (nurturing learning) environment (and) by educating and assisting parents, child care providers, and communities to prepare our children for future success

Available Grants: Accreditation/Approval System, ABC Program, CDA Scholarships, Child Care Facilities Funding/Community Development Block Grant, CPR/First Aid Training Grants, & Enhancement Grants

Trainings Available: AECC Framework Handbook Course, Arkansas Children's Program Administrator Certificate/Credential, Arkansas 4H After School Program, Arkansas Women's Business Development Center, Basic Child Care Orientation Training for Child Care Staff, The Best Care & Best Care Connected, Business Development Center--A Program of Southern Good Faith Fund, Business Management Training, Caregiver Certificate Program, Child Care Specialist Certificate, Director Training, Early Literacy Training in Arkansas, Elements of Successful Grant Writing, Family Child Care Provider Training, Guiding Children Successfully, Index: Investigate, Discover & Explore: Math & Science for Young Children, Introduction to Child Care, Mentor Endorsement, Pre-Employment Training, Social Emotional Learning for Young Children, Welcome the Children, Wrapping Up Quality: Infant & Toddler Framework

Other Services: Child Care Resource & Referral Center, Technical Assistance & the Arkansas Early Childhood Professional Development Systems Registry are also provided for programs across the state



JCCSI ChildCare LINKS (Learning, Information, Networking Kids Services)

Purpose: a childcare and resource referral agency providing services to the community

Assists: parents in locating childcare through a database of licensed and registered childcare providers with vacancies meeting parents' need- Free of charge

Description: a network of services dedicated to enhancing the quality and availability of childcare; advocating for children; and providing information, education, guidance and support to parents, providers, employers and the community

Strives: to enhance the quality of child care through provider education/training; provide technical assistance to present and prospective providers with the objective of promoting quality; increase the supply of care by helping to recruit providers to meet identified community needs; serve as a trend spotter through careful data collection; and act as a Community Change Agent through advocacy and partnership building

Services: a complete up-to date listing of registered & licensed child care facilities, information on how to choose a child care provider, technical assistance to present & potential child care providers, referrals to child care facilities, a variety of child care training opportunities, parenting information, hearing and developmental screenings, a Parents as Teachers Program, a Play & Learn Center, a Lending Library for children, parents and providers, Monthly Parent-Child Workshops, a parent newsletter, developmental screenings, a quarterly provider newsletter, parenting workshops/classes, and a Cut and Create Resource Workroom

Northwest Arkansas Child Care Resource and Referral Center



Mission: to promote the development and nurturing of all children through quality childcare that is safe and healthy for every child; work to strengthen and enhance parenting skill; improve communication between parent and childcare providers; and to work to retain, recruit, and train new child care providers

Description: a network of services dedicated to enhancing the quality and availability of childcare; advocating for children; and providing information, education, guidance and support to parents, providers, employers, and to the community

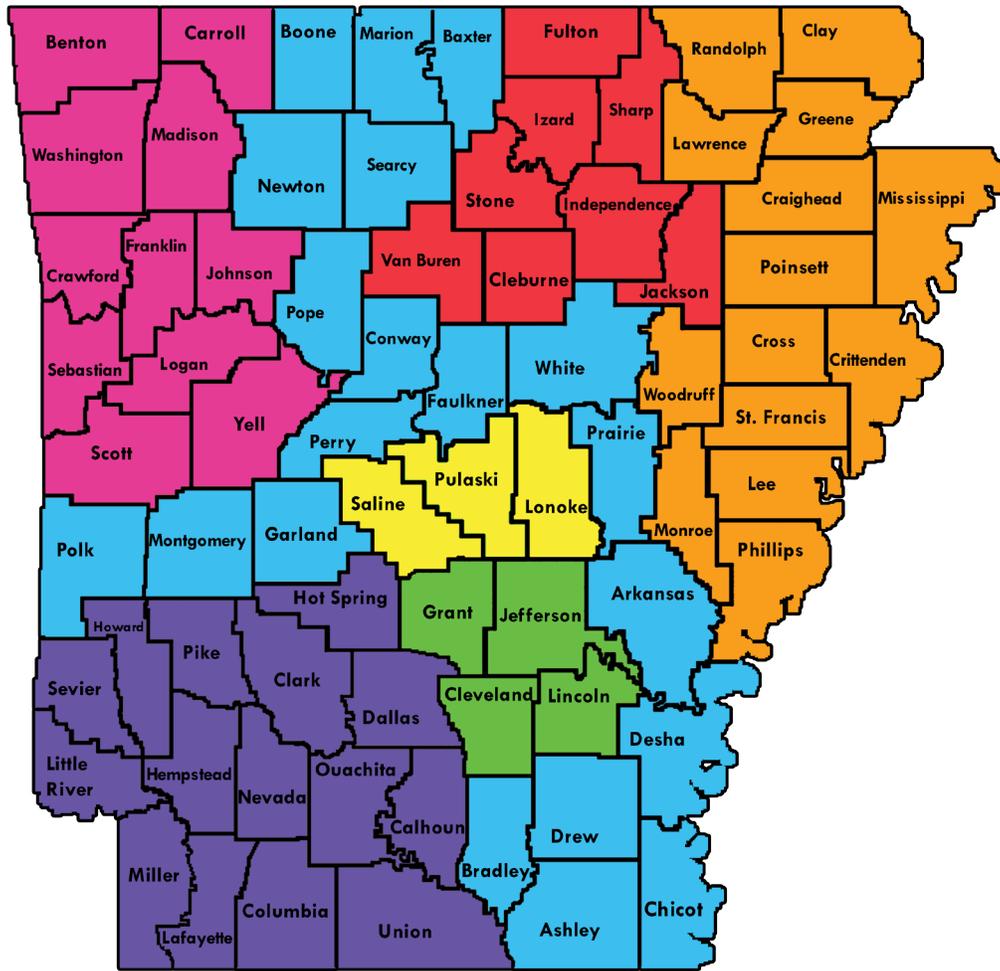
Serves: children, families, child care providers, and employers

Services: profiles all regulated child care facilities in an 11-county service area; child care referrals to parents, caregivers, DHS, social services, employers, etc.; training opportunities for childcare providers and educators; technical assistance to new and existing childcare facilities; provides resources and information for parents to assist in meeting the needs of children and families; quality enhancement for new and existing childcare facilities; a clearinghouse for childcare information and statistics; capacity building in areas with gaps in childcare services

Trainings: Annual Spring Conferences in northwest and western Arkansas, Disaster Preparation Training, parenting classes, and training on site for child care providers as needed

All CCR&R's are contracted to have NAPSACC (Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care) Training, AI's Caring Pals, and Arkansas Fit Kids Training

Arkansas Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Partners for Quality!



Agency	Contact	E-Mail	Phone	Website
ASU Childhood Services ACQUIRE (Jonesboro)	Jo Battle	jbattle@astate.edu	1-870-972-3055 1-888-429-1585 Fax:1-870-972-3556	chs.astate.edu
ASU Childhood Services ACQUIRE (West Memphis)	Nicole Wilson	jnwilson@astate.edu	1-870-732-1226 1-877-732-1226	chs.astate.edu
Child Care Connections, Inc.	Terrie Baker & Kristen Sangalli	bakert1652@yahoo.com ksangalli@gmail.com	1-501-374-0330 Fax: 1-501-374-0395	www.ChildCareConnectionsInc.com
Child Care Connections, Inc.	Annie Wesson	annie.wesson@yahoo.com	1-501-332-8977	www.ChildCareConnectionsInc.com
CHILDREN of Northcentral Arkansas	Debbie Webb & Debbie Mize	Debbie@wrpdd.org Dmize@wrpdd.org	1-870-793-5233 1-800-737-2237 Fax: 1-870-793-4035	www.CHILDRENofNCAR.org
Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education	Brinda Burr	Brinda.Burr@arkansas.gov	1-501-682-9699 1-800-445-3316	www.arkansas.gov/childcare
JCCSI ChildCare LINKS	Elaine Davis	elainewdavis@sbcglobal.net	1-870-536-0520 Fax: 1-870-536-0533	www.jccsichildlinks.com
Northwest Arkansas Child Care Resource and Referral Center	Carolene Thornton & Michelle Wynn	cthorto@jtlshop.jonesnet.org mwynn@jtlshop.jonesnet.org	1-479-751-3463 1-800-KIDS-LOG Fax: 1-479-751-1110	www.nwachildcare.org