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Visit our website at www.wdscrr.org

Call us at 1-866-582-2229

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"Child Care Resource and Referral is the gateway to child care in the community, it is the critical link that brings parents and providers together, that provides support, and helps make it all work everyday for children and families."

~ Joan Lombardi



WDS, Inc.
Child Care Resource & Referral

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FSSA Announces Plans to Launch Statewide Child Care Rating System

Excerpts from Indiana Family and Social Service Administration Press Release, December 4, 2007, Indianapolis, IN

Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's (FSSA) Bureau of Child Care (BCC) announced plans to roll out a quality rating system (QRS) for child care providers across the state. The program, called Paths to QUALITY (PTQ), is a free and voluntary rating system designed to help parents find and select the best care for their children in licensed centers, family child care homes or unlicensed registered ministries.

The program runs on four levels. Each level builds on the foundation of the previous one, resulting in significant quality improvements at each and in national accreditation at the highest level. The four levels address:

Level One: Health and safety needs of children met.

Level Two: Environment supports children's learning.

Level Three: Planned curriculum guides child development and school readiness.

Level Four: National accreditation is achieved.

For more information about Paths to QUALITY, including the study done by Purdue University, go to: www.childcarefinder.in.gov.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU...

Lake, Porter & LaPorte counties will roll-out Paths to Quality in January 2009
WDS, Inc. CCRR will be available to assist you in this voluntary process.

Paths to QUALITY Introduction Session

Come and learn about these benefits in the 2- hour, Paths to QUALITY Introduction Session. Eligibility requirements and enrollment procedures for participation will be discussed.

Additionally, participants will learn about accessing free support, achieving awards and earning incentives. Licensed family child care homes, licensed centers, or unlicensed registered ministries as well as anyone who wants to learn more about Indiana's four levels of standards to achieve excellence in child care should plan on attending.

Come and see how you can participate in this exciting and innovative system to improve the child care and early education for children Paths to QUALITY Introduction Sessions are FREE, however **you must register in advance** by calling Kimberly at 219-937-0381 x 317. Check the dates in the Professional Development Opportunities Calendar



Wee Care Child Development Centers receive plaques

IDEM recognizes Chesterton, Valparaiso day care facilities for environmental stewardship.

Wee Care joined the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM's) Five Star Environmental Recognition Program for Child Care Facilities.

The Five Star program recognizes child care facilities that go above and beyond requirements and demonstrate environmental stewardship. Facilities earn one, three or five stars based on the extent of their voluntary measures; **the Wee Care Child Development Centers earned five stars.**

Additional information about the Five Star Environmental Recognition Program for Child Care Facilities can be obtained by visiting <http://www.in.gov/idem/4413.htm>.

A SHOUT OUT

goes to Lisa's Safe Haven
in East Chicago

They received their
National Association for
Family Child Care
(NAFCC) Accreditation

For more information on
Family Child Care Accreditation visit:
<http://nafcc.org>



We would like to WELCOME the following people to our CCRR Family

Clarissa Regula

Paths to QUALITY Specialist

Carole Malone

Paths to QUALITY Mentor

Jennifer Ensign

Paths to QUALITY Mentor

Melissa Chabes

Hispanic Outreach Coordinator

Early Childhood Meeting Place

Have you checked it out??

<http://earlychildhoodmeetingplace.indiana.edu>

Here is what they have to offer you:

- News & career opportunities
- Agencies & organizations
- Events calendar
- Initiatives & resources
- Family info & resources



Connecting you to education,
resources & news

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Join NAEYC to help build better futures for all young children—and all of us. Since 1926, NAEYC has led the way toward a vision of excellence in early childhood education. Our 100,000-plus members are teachers, administrators, parents, policymakers, and others committed to bringing high-quality early education and care to all young children.



NAEYC members get one year (six issues) of *Young Children*, reduced fees at conferences, an influential voice on public policies affecting early childhood education, and many other benefits.

Membership benefits:

- Improve your teaching & learning
- Raise the quality of early childhood education programs
- Build the early childhood profession
- Promote public support and policies for young children

For more information go to www.naeyc.org/membership

Other Conferences & Workshops

- Child Care Professional Network (CCPN) February 10, 2009 ~ Living Hope Church~ Merrillville Call 219-365-6788 for more information
- Indiana Early Childhood Conference April 2-4, 2009 Indiana Convention Center ~ Indianapolis Call 1-800-657-7577 for more information
- Purdue North Central Early Childhood Conference April 25, 2009 ~ Purdue North Central ~ Westville Call 219-785-5343 for more information

