

Child Care
Resource & Referral Services
2008/2009 Annual Report



Tulare County
Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to share with you the accomplishments of Child Care Resource & Referral Services for fiscal year 2008-2009.

Child Care Resource & Referral Services consists of an array of programs that provide information

and assistance to parents and child care providers. For parents, Resource & Referral, or “R & R,” helps any parent, regardless of income, find child care. R & R’s subsidy programs help eligible families by paying for their child

care services while they are working or going to school. For providers, R & R offers technical assistance and training with on site visits, workshops, and an annual child care conference.

Resource & Referral Lending Library

This year, R & R completed a re-design of *Building Blocks*, the newsletter published by R & R. The “new” newsletter is now in color and is published quarterly—with issues published in summer, fall, winter and spring.

Below is a description of R & R’s ongoing projects and accomplishments.

CCIP

CCIP is an acronym for the Child Care Initiative Project. The purpose of the CCIP project is to recruit and train family child care providers—to simultaneously build the capacity of licensed homes and to promote quality child care.

This year family child care providers had the opportunity to attend classes through College of the Sequoias and to participate in West Ed trainings for unit credit.

R & R also offered workshops on Keeping Kids Safe at Home, Promoting Dental Health, Recordkeeping, Car Seat Safety, and Cooking with Children.

GLC

GLC stands for “Growing, Learning, and Caring.” This project provides training for individuals who provide child care, but are not required to be licensed. Generally, these “exempt” providers care for children from one family. Very often they are related

R & R Library Highlights

- 1,006 referrals for child care services; of these 733 were for parents who were working
- 4,000 requests for other child care information
- 1,226 library visitors
- 680 providers attended 18 R & R workshops
- 775 participants attended the R & R Conference
- 57 licensed exempt providers received a total of 179 hours of training

to the children for whom they are providing care. Most of these trainings occurred during home visits. Providers received training based on four modules developed specifically for educating exempt providers.

Child Care Conference

Each year, in the spring, Resource & Referral hosts a child care conference. This is a major child care event for the central valley region.

The theme of this year’s conference was “The Nature of Play from Wagons to Wii.” It was held at the McDermont Field House in Lindsay. The McDermont Field House is a state of the art, multi-function, recreation facility. A record number, 775 child care

providers attended the conference. Bev Bos, a well-known expert in the child development field, was the keynote speaker.

The break out sessions followed the conference theme and kept people active and moving throughout the day.

The last workshop session was designed to explore the McDermont Field House — from the wave rider and video arcade to laser tag.

In January 2009, Stephanie Rodriguez became the coordinator of the R & R program.

The goal for next year is to increase visibility of Resource and Referral services through outreach activities.



Alternative Payment Programs

The Alternative Payment Programs serve families who are working or going to school. These programs reimburse child care providers whom the parent chooses for their children. The parent can choose either a licensed child care center, or family child care home, or a provider who is not required to be licensed. The provider who is not required to be licensed is an “exempt” provider. This person can be either a friend or relative of the parent.

Below is a table showing the usage by program of licensed and exempt care.

Children Served in Licensed and Exempt Care		
Program	Licensed	Exempt
CAPP	710	112
Stage 2	1,456	1,251
Stage 3	839	640
COS	51	38
PC	19	13
Totals	3,075	2,054
Percentage	60%	40%

The Alternative Payment Programs have three major funding streams: the California Alternative Payment Program, CalWORKs Stage 2, and CalWORKs Stage 3. We have agreements with both Porterville College and College of the Sequoias to provide an alternative payment program for their student families.

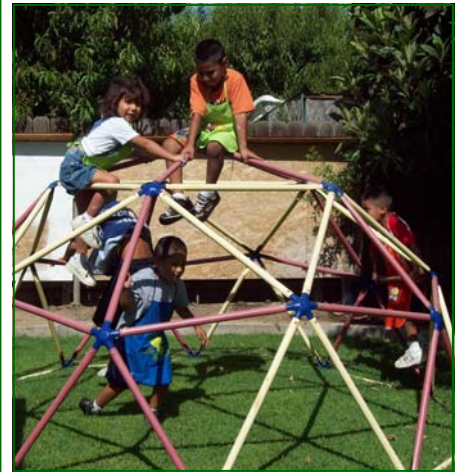
In the third column are Alternative Payment Programs statistics on families and children served.

Families Served	
CAPP	368
Stage 2	1,265
Stage 3	638
COS	57
Porterville College	15
Total Families	2,343
Children Served	
CAPP	822
Stage 2	2,707
Stage 3	1,479
COS	89
Porterville College	32
Total Children	5,129

The Alternative Payment Programs reimburse child care providers for the child care they provide to eligible families. In January 2009, the system for reimbursing child care providers was automated with the transition completed on June 30, 2009. The collection of family fees was also automated in January 2009.

On October 1, 2008 new need and eligibility regulations were implemented. The new regulations require more documentation from parents and require more staff time to complete.

Objectives for next year include additional training on regulations and program compliance to assure that new eligibility and need requirements are being met.



Children Served by Community	
Porterville	1,507
Visalia	1,079
Tulare	699
Lindsay	395
Dinuba	251
Terra Bella	109
Earlimart	103
Orosi	98
Strathmore	95
Cutler	90
Exeter	90
Woodlake	60
Richgrove	52
Pixley	43
Farmersville	42
Ivanhoe	24
Ducor	15
Goshen	15
Sultana	10
Tipton	9
Alpaugh	6
Springville	6
Sequoia Nat'l Park	2
Three Rivers	1
Traver	1
Other Communities	17

State Migrant Family Child Care Network

The State Migrant Family Child Care Network serves migrant children in licensed family child care homes. This program requires the homes to meet the same standards that are required of state funded center-based programs. Specifically, this means that licensed home environments are assessed using an assessment tool similar to the one used by center-based programs.

Also, children are assessed at regular intervals using a state tool called the Desired Results Developmental Profile (Revised).

Two state contracts support these programs. With these two contracts, 315 children were served in FY 2008-2009.

Home Assessment

The home assessment covers space and furnishings, basic care, language and reasoning, learning activities, social development, and provisions for exceptional children. With a score of 7 being perfect, providers scored between 5.8 - 6.1 in the assessment areas. Adaptations for other special needs scored 7.



Desired Results

The Desired Results Developmental Profile (*Revised*) instrument assesses children's educational and developmental progress.

Children in each age group (infants and toddlers, preschool age and school age children) are assessed twice during the program year. There are four categories of desired results: Children are personally and socially competent; children are effective learners; children show physical and motor competence; and children are safe and healthy.

The only area that needed improvement was in the effective learners area in phonological awareness. Staff will be working with providers and families in this area in the coming year.

Program Implementation

To accomplish program goals, each family is assigned two specialists — one specialist works with the parents and the child care providers on the educational and developmental needs of each child. The other specialist works with the family to determine eligibility for child care services and to either

provide or refer families to health and social services.

Meetings

Staff meets with parents and child care providers on a quarterly basis. Parents and providers help choose topics for their meetings. Presentations for parent meetings were: Dental Hygiene for Children, Applying for an ITIN and W7, Working with Children with Disabilities, and Medical Programs for Children.

Provider topics for the year were: Safe Preparation of Food, Working with Children with Disabilities, Teaching Children using the Accu Cut machine, and Implementation of New Regulations.

Average attendance for meetings was 64 participants.

Program	# of Children
SMFCCN	241
SFCCN	74
Total	315
Provider Meetings	4
Average Attendance	64
Parent Meetings	4
Average Attendance	64



Child Care Planning Council



Planning Council

The Child Care Planning Council is jointly appointed by the Tulare County Superintendent of Schools and the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. There are 25 members on the Planning Council. The Council determines the priorities for child care funding in Tulare County.

To help accomplish its goals, the Planning Council convenes an annual retreat. The strategic plan is updated and goals for the coming year are developed.

The Planning Council's mission is to be a voice for and collaborate for seamless care for all children. To accomplish its mission, the council advocates, promotes and facilitates affordable quality child care services for all children in Tulare County.

AB 212 Stipend Project

The AB 212 Stipend Project distributes annual stipends to employees working directly with children in state subsidized center-based programs. The purpose of stipends is to encourage staff retention. This year 397 applications

were received. Of these 397 applications, 351 applicants qualified for a \$684 stipend. Additional stipends were given to 227 of these qualified applicants for having a valid child development permit. A total of \$274,134 was disbursed in stipends.

Legislative Breakfast

The first annual Legislative Breakfast was held on Friday, September 12, 2008 at the Visalia Convention Center. Two hundred persons, including legislators and decision makers attended. The program included an overview of the recently completed Child Care Needs Assessment. The story behind the needs assessment was portrayed by parents who need and use child care services in a 15 minute video.

Two local businesses, Visalia Ceramic Tile, Inc. and TPG Consulting received the first Family Friendly Business Awards.

Inclusion Project

This past year, the Planning Council formed an Inclusion Team

comprised of Council members and others. The goal of this project is to promote the inclusion of children with disabilities in child care settings. The first activity of this committee was to participate in an Inclusion Institute held in Foster City, California in March.

Nine of the 11 team members received training on "Recognition and Response," a preschool version of "Response to Intervention."

The Inclusion Team developed a community plan that outlined goals, activities, and strategies. The first activity was to host an Inclusion Collaborative meeting in May. Approximately 40 key stakeholders from throughout Tulare County attended the meeting.

Other Council Activities

On April 9, 2009, the Council held a public hearing on priorities for child care funding in Tulare County.

A child Care Summit will be held on Friday, September 11, 2009 at the Visalia Convention Center. The theme for the summit is "Quality Care for Kids...Turning Disabilities into Possibilities." Dr. Temple Grandin, well known author and educator, and a person with autism, will be the keynote speaker. In the morning prior to the summit, a second Legislative Breakfast will be held, also at the Visalia Convention Center.



Centralized Eligibility List



The Centralized Eligibility list is operated through the Tulare County Office of Education's Child Care Resource and Referral Services program.

The Centralized Eligibility List, or CEL, is a one-stop system that allows low-income families to apply for assistance to pay for all or part of their child care needs. Most programs that receive funds from the California Department of Education, Child Development Division are required to participate.

A single application will place a family on the Centralized Eligibility List. This means that a parent can be contacted by any child care program that has an opening. With the CEL, the parent does not have to contact all programs in his or her area and request to be placed on their list.

It is important to note that the CEL is an eligibility list, not a

	Qtr 3 2008	Qtr 4 2008	Qt 4 2009	Qtr 2 2009
Families Waiting	6,451 *	4,683	4,298	4,695
Children Waiting	10,778 *	7,700	6,920	7,269
New Applications	2,432 *	1,113	2,033	1,540
Children Enrolled	1,251	366	400	511

*Annual updating occurred between quarters 3 and 4, accounting for the reduced number of children, families, and new applications in the fourth quarter.

waiting list. Placement on the CEL does not operate on a first-come, first-served basis, but on eligibility criteria and priorities of the particular subsidized child care program.

Each family is given a rank number based on family size and monthly income. Families with the lowest rank number are served first. When a program has a vacancy, the most eligible families on the CEL will be contacted first.

At the end of June 2009, 7,269 children were on the CEL. This means that 4,695 families are still waiting for help. At the end of FY 2009-2010, 2,428 children from the CEL were enrolled in state-subsidized child care programs.

Although the CEL improves access to subsidized child care

programs in Tulare County, the fact remains that there are more eligible families and children on the CEL



Looking Ahead

Funding for child care programs has remained fairly stable in spite of the current economy. For this, and for the families we serve, we are grateful.

The Resource & Referral Lending Library will continue to provide services at the same level as last year. They will be recruiting and training individuals wanting to become family child care providers, and also will be offering training opportunities to exempt providers.

The Alternative Payment Programs will also continue at the same funding level and may experience some expansion with the Federal



stimulus monies. The State Migrant Family Child Care Network will continue with the same funding as last year, and may also be in line to receive some expansion money from the stimulus package. The CEL and the Child Care Planning Council will continue with the same level of funding as last year.

Our primary goal will be to continue to deliver and promote quality child care services for all children in Tulare County.