

Lots of new training participants

Child Start's Child Care Aware program is currently offering professional development opportunities and incentives to area child care providers made possible by a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).



Participants attend a Child Start training session designed specifically for child care center directors

Child care licensing mandates only 10 hours of inservice training a year -- a number that doesn't reflect the extent of the knowledge and skills professionals need in order to provide high quality early childhood care and education. Child Start offers a number of quality initiatives that encourage area child care providers to attend more training and set a standard for professionalization of the field so that children throughout our service delivery area have enriching environments for their early development. The latest is the quality initiative made possible by the stimulus dollars.

This round of incentives seems to be effective because Child Start's training attendance numbers have increased by 32% for September and October. The incentives include waiving tuition for selected classes, generous door prize giveaways for participants, and the possibility of mini-grant awards for providers who participate in 18 hours of specialized training.



Deb Rockhoff

Deb Rockhoff, Director of Loving Arms Child Care Center, is one of the participants who is working on an application for a mini-grant award. "When center directors come together at Child Start for professional development, it stops being about competition and we all join in Child Start's mission and start raising the bar for early childhood services. In the end, the children are going to be the community leaders and really that's an investment in our future."

Cheryl Dunn, Director of Child Start's Child Care Aware program, explains a key component of the incentive project saying, "Child care quality makes a huge difference for all children, but especially children in need. That's why the mini-grants are specifically for child care providers who care for children from low-income families. We know that low-income children who spend more time in high-quality child care in the first five years have better math and reading scores later and perform similarly to their affluent peers."



Incentives include door prizes which also add to the quality of care

To see more images from training events associated with the incentive program, visit Child Start's Facebook page. Be sure to "like" Child Start!