

Ready, Set, Grow!

Children's Home + Aid
Child Care Resource + Referral Program
www.chasiccrr.org



Volume 1, Issue 1



children's home + aid

Dear Specialist...

Dear Specialist,

When should a sick child be sent home from a child care program?

Sincerely,

Eager to Know

There are two great resources for information on this question:

1. *Managing Infections Diseases* a publication from the American Academy of Pediatrics says: Each staff member should do a daily health check when the child arrives, and throughout the day. The caregiver should determine if the illness:

- *Prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities*
- *Results in a need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children*
- *Poses a risk of spread of harmful disease to others*

If any of these criteria are met, the child should be excluded, regardless of the type of illness.

2. *Illinois DCFS Licensing Standards* provides very specific examples of when an ill child should be sent home. They include, **but are not limited to** when a child:

- *has diarrhea, or a rash combined with fever of 101 degrees (orally)*
- *has vomited 2 or more times in the previous 24 hours*
- *is unusually lethargic, irritable, has difficulty breathing, or other signs of possible severe illness*
- *has a communicable disease such as pinkeye, impetigo, strep throat, head lice, scabies, chickenpox, measles, mumps, or whooping cough.*

If you have other health care or safety questions or concerns, please call me at extension 125.

♥Andi Mueller♥

Do you have a question about Early Childhood Care and Education? Ask our specialists!

E-mail us at: toettle@childrenshomeandaid.org

with "Dear Specialist" in the subject box.

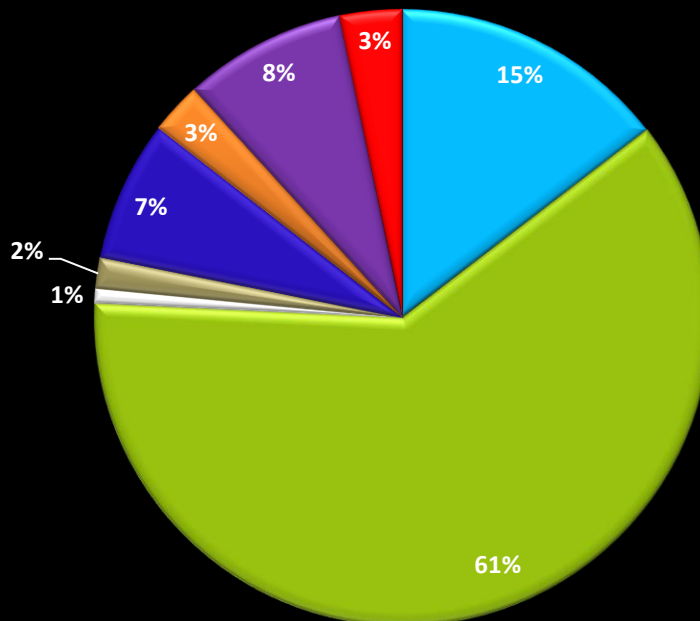
Your question may be featured in the next issue of *Ready, Set, Grow!*

The Survey Says...

Providers in the Counties of: Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair and Washington

* Data from Child Care Resource + Referral Provider Database

- Licensed Centers
- Licensed Family Child Care
- License Exempt Family Child Care
- License Exempt Centers
- Preschool For All
- Head Start
- Before/After School Care
- Preschool Program



What curriculum do you implement in your program?

Answer our survey by clicking on the link below. Answer by October 31st and see the results in the next *Ready, Set, Grow!*

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8XN7SVM>

Developmentally Appropriate Activities



Infants

Offer children new and interesting objects that they can close their hand around. This encourages the child to use his/her hands to grasp objects, and allows them to explore various textures.

Mobile Infants

Hide objects by putting them into a cloth bag, under a blanket, or behind you. Invite children to look for the object that you hid. This promotes spatial awareness, helps the child understand that objects that are hidden out of sight can be found, and also encourages gross motor movements.

Toddlers

Invite children to explore a few objects. Talk about the texture and shape of the objects. Put the objects into a cloth bag and allow children to find the objects based on how they feel. This encourages language, expands cognitive thinking and reasoning skills, and allows children to connect the words you say with the textures he/she feels.

Developmentally Appropriate Activities



Preschool

Hide an object in a paper or cloth bag. Give children descriptive words and hints, and encourage them to guess what the object is. Eventually, allow children to take turns putting an object of their choice in the bag and describing their object to their classmates. This encourages vocabulary, language use, abstract thinking skills, and turn taking.

School Age

Create a scavenger hunt for the children. Compose a list of objects to collect. Some may be directly stated (ex: red crayon), and some may take thinking outside of the box (ex: something that rhymes with "cat", or something that measures 2 inches long). This allows the children to practice following 2-step directions, reading, rhyming, classification, measuring, cooperation, and problem solving.

The Latest Buzz...

August 9, 2010

Child Care Costs More Than College

By [LISA BELKIN](#)

Saving for college? First start saving for child care.

A study released last week by the [National Association of Child Care Resource Referral Agencies](#) finds that the cost of center-based care has now surpassed the cost of public-university tuition in a majority of states.

In the past 10 years, the agency's latest survey found, the cost of child care for the youngest children increased twice as fast as the median family income throughout the country, and in half the states it far outpaced the rate of inflation. The recommendation of the Department of Health and Human Services is that parents spend no more than 10 percent of their family income on child care. But in 36 states, the cost of center-based care for an infant exceeds 10 percent of median income for a married couple, and for single parents, the cost of center-based infant care exceeds 10 percent of median income in every state.

Exact numbers vary — from a low of \$4,550 per year for infant care in Mississippi in 2009 to a high of more than \$18,750 in Massachusetts. Infant care was particularly expensive — the yearly cost of care in a center is higher, on average, than the yearly cost of food in every region of the United States. But even as children graduate to the toddler room, care hardly becomes a bargain. The monthly costs for center care for an infant plus a preschooler are higher than the median cost of rent, and nearly as high as the monthly mortgage for most families. (Costs for school-age children ranged from \$2,160 in Mississippi to \$10,400 in New York.)

Comparisons to college tuition also vary from state to state, but almost everywhere the ratio is startling. In 40 states the average annual cost for an infant in center-based care was higher than a year's tuition and fees at a four-year public college. In Massachusetts, the yearly infant care cost exceeded the yearly cost of tuition and fees by \$9,533; in New York, Wyoming and Washington, D.C., the infant-care costs were more than double the college costs.

What is the cost of child care where you live? Does paying for day care make it impossible to save for college?

See next page for local data.



Average Cost of Child Care in the Counties of:

Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, & Washington

Child Care Centers

Age Group	Average Daily Cost	Average Yearly Cost
6 weeks – 14 months	\$38.73	\$10,069
15 months – 23 months	\$37.74	\$9,812
24 months – 35 months	\$32.14	\$8,356
3 & 4 Years	\$27.31	\$7,100
School-Age (Before & After School Care)	\$17.40	\$4,524

Family Child Care Homes

Age Group	Average Daily Cost	Average Yearly Cost
6 weeks – 14 months	\$24.61	\$6,398
15 months – 23 months	\$24.35	\$6,331
24 months – 35 months	\$23.60	\$6,136
3 & 4 Years	\$22.79	\$5,925
School-Age (Before & After School Care)	\$18.54	\$4,820



Tips, Tricks, and Fun Facts



Family Involvement:

Post a "wish list" of scrap materials that families could donate to the art area. This enables families to contribute to their child's program.

Marketing Tip:

Halloween is a good time for family child care providers to advertise their business. Attach your business card to the candy you hand out. What a great way to inform neighbors that you provide care in your home, and some of the candy you pass out can be tax deductible.

Going Green:

Did you know there is now a "Go Green Rating Scale"? This tool, produced by Redleaf Press, helps to assess and rate the environmental health of your early childhood program.

http://www.redleafpress.org/product_details.cfm?PC=1557

Something to Think About:

90% of brain development is completed by the age of 5, yet in FY10 only 2% of Illinois' educational funding was spent on early childhood programs.

Update your program information with us and be entered into a monthly drawing!

Each day we receive phone calls from parents in need of child care. Our database of providers allows us to give each parent a list of child care programs that best meet their needs.

Updating your information on our provider database allows us to provide parents with accurate information about your program.

Call us today and update information such as:

- Enrollment by Age Group
- Rates
- Vacancies
- Days/Hours of Operation



When you update your information, **ask to be entered into the monthly drawing.** You may win a \$15 credit toward a Children's Home + Aid, CCR+R training.

Winners will be notified by phone call and e-mail, and will be recognized in the next issue of *Ready, Set, Grow!*

**Call or E-mail Kelly or Tricia,
CCR+R Parent Referral/Data Specialists:**

1-800-467-9200, ext 390

kbeem@childrenshomeandaid.org
tthomas@childrenshomeandaid.org

Congratulations
to the licensed providers who have
earned stars through the Quality
Counts Quality Rating System!



Child Care Centers



Family Child Care Homes



Alton Day Care Center, Alton	2	Debra Hayes, Collinsville	1
Discovery School, O'Fallon	3	Ella Mobley, East St. Louis	3
Discovery Youth Center, Red Bud	2	Maple and Alfred Session, Venice	3
Hamilton's Learning Center, East St. Louis	1	Patricia Simon, Fairview Heights	3
KinderCare Learning Center, Belleville	3	Rubye Riggins, Fairview Heights	3
KinderCare Learning Center, Edwardsville	3		
Learning Journey, Belleville	3		
Step by Step, Alton	2		
Step by Step Bethalto East, Bethalto	2		
Step by Step, Meadowbrook	2		
The Lighthouse Learning Ctr., Waterloo	3		
The Lighthouse Learning Ctr. , Columbia	3		
The Lighthouse Learning Center, Freeburg	3		
The Tree Hut Child Center, Belleville	3		
Toddle Town Inc, Belleville	3		

Data received from www.inccrra.org

To learn more about QRS, call:

Michele Denton

QRS Specialist

1-800-467-9200, ext. 126

Or visit www.inccrra.org