



Opportunity Council CCR&R

A Snapshot of Child Care Resource & Referral Services in Your Community

Serving: Island/San Juan/Whatcom Counties

Opportunity Council's Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) is a community service that works with parents/families of all income levels, child care providers, businesses, and community organizations to help promote the availability of high quality child care programs in Island, San Juan, and Whatcom counties.

- We provide parents and families with child care referrals and consumer education materials on evaluating high quality child care, and support them on numerous and various parenting issues.
- We offer child care providers access to valuable professional development and support services for new or established programs.
- We assess the supply and demand of child care in the communities we serve.

Child Care Resource and Referral's vision is to ensure that every child gets a great start in school and in life, beginning with a high-quality child care/early learning program. Our database includes accurate and current information about licensed child care centers, licensed family child care programs, licensed school age programs, and licensed-exempt preschools.

Services for Families

Matching referrals to licensed care:

Families served: **609**

Children served: **883**

Of these families:

Low-income households served: **359**

Low income children referred: **548**

Children with special needs referred: **32**

Types of services offered:

- On-site parenting support and coaching
- Enhanced military referrals
- Emergency/homeless child care
- Early intervention and school-age screening
- Transition between early learning programs and K-12
- Community/family events

Local partner organizations engaged: Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Technical College, Northwest Educational Service District, Northwest Association for the Education of Young Children, Department of Early Learning, United Way, Communities In Schools, School Districts, and Health Departments.

Services for Child Care Providers

CCR&R helps child caregivers provide quality care by helping them meet training requirements, competency standards and by providing general business and program support:

- Training hours provided: **47**
- Technical assistance contacts: **1,099**
- Onsite consultation/coaching hours: **156.5**
- Family child care licensed applicants served: **69**
- Center license applicants served: **19**
- Licensed facility records updated annually: **185**
- Toll free telephone support: **1,560**
- Current/potential licensees served: **89**

Community Service

CCR&R also fields numerous calls from local citizens, businesses and community partners. In 2009 the total number of Community Technical Assistance Calls that the Parent Line answered were: **1,172**



"To act as a catalyst for change, both in the community and in the lives of the people we serve."

Community Partnerships

- Opportunity Council's Early Learning and Family Services Department (in which CCR&R is located) has entered a partnership with the Center for Educational Leadership (CEL) at the University of Washington. CEL is dedicated to eliminating the achievement gap that continues to divide our nation's children along the lines of race, class, language, and disability. Opportunity Council's work with CEL focuses on:
 - ◆ Being the first non-profit organization to partner with CEL in an effort to increase the quality of early care and education
 - ◆ Determining a Theory of Action and strategies to ensure we meet our goals and move closer to our vision of serving children and families holistically
 - ◆ Assessing a leadership framework to guide our work internally as well as with our community partners
- CCR&R is the link to early childhood educators in the PreK-3rd Alignment Initiative taking place across Washington State. Our regional goal is to ensure that all children are ready for kindergarten and maintain achievement over time, ultimately meeting and/or exceeding 3rd grade standards. In terms of aligning early learning experiences:
 - ◆ P-3 is a critical strategy for school reform
 - ◆ Quality leadership must reach across multiple P-3 delivery systems
 - ◆ Collaborative leadership must require an understanding of adaptive work to create systemic change, infrastructures, relationships, and agreements that fully support all children in a developmentally appropriate manner, leading to success in our K-12 public school system
 - ◆ CCR&R has created a Professional Learning Community, consisting of early childhood educators; child care providers in this cohort engage in co-learning in order to align their literacy teaching and learning practices with those of their school districts
- In collaboration with Northwest Early Learning, CCR&R and ESD 189 are researching the systems, services, and supports available for infants, toddlers, and their families. We are gathering information on strengths, needs, and opportunities for infants and toddlers to help DEL direct three years of funding intended to increase the quality of services to our region's youngest (age birth to three) and those who care for them
- CCR&R Program Manager serves on the Whatcom Community College and Bellingham Technical College Early Childhood Education Community Advisory Committee
- CCR&R continues to co-facilitate and support the Early Learning Coalitions of our service delivery area, as well as our five-county ESD, consisting of Regions C and D



Opportunity Council Child Care Resource & Referral

1111 Cornwall, Suite 200

Bellingham, WA 98225

(360) 734-8396 x 227 (888) 444-1862 ext 227

Web Site: <http://www.oppco.org/ccrr>

E-mail: childcare@oppco.org

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