



Administration on Developmental Disabilities



Child Care

FY 2008 Performance Highlights

One of the first challenges that parents of a child with developmental disabilities face is locating accessible, affordable child care staffed with appropriately trained professionals. Through programs that facilitate research, education, training, and system change, grantees are improving the ability of child care and early education systems to meet the needs of children with disabilities in a nurturing, inclusive environment.

- Due to the efforts of 46 UCEDDs, 44,878 people participated in projects that allow families of children with developmental disabilities to have access to appropriate, accessible child care services in FY 2008.
- Thirteen Councils worked to increase availability of quality child care for 699 children with developmental disabilities.
- Twenty-eight P&As assisted 90 families in finding or maintaining appropriate child care.

The Arkansas UCEDD addressed the issue of child care through its Welcome the Children project. Arkansas early childhood professionals all have one thing in common: diversity in the children and families they serve. The primary goal of Welcome the Children is to help child care providers and educators to understand cultural issues and learn strategies to support Latino children, and to teach them to make appropriate referrals for possible developmental delays. Fulfillment of this goal will ensure that English-speaking adults providing care to children birth to age 12 have the knowledge and skills to provide nurturing experiences essential to helping young Latino children develop intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally.

Welcome the Children provides two seven-hour training sessions on Cultural Diversity, with an emphasis on Latin American Culture, Second Language Development and Working with Families in Early Childhood. Over 600 professionals have been trained with most attending both modules. Additional modules developed include working with interpreters and using real objects in the classroom to represent various cultures.