



Reaching Out

Hennepin County Supplement

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CDA SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Claudia Freund, RCC Career Guidance coordinator, is available to assist individuals in acquiring their Child Development Associate credential. Whether you are a center staff looking to increase your qualifications, or a family child care provider looking to package the years of training into a credential, help is available to make sense of the process and develop a timeline and plan for completion. Contact Claudia at 651-641-6653 or cfreund@resourcesforchildcare.org for more information.

MINNEAPOLIS RENOVATION LOANS

On behalf of the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support and in partnership with the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation (GMHC), Resources for Child Caring is looking for eligible child care programs committed to improving the quality of child care environments in Minneapolis.

As these loans may be forgivable, there are income eligibility requirements. Licensed family child care homes and child care centers in Minneapolis may be eligible. To download the brochure, visit www.resourcesforchildcaring.org, then click on the "For Child Care Providers" tab and then Grants, or contact Kathleen Zabinski at 651-366-6786 for more information.

CEED LOOKING FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PARTICIPANTS

The Center for Early Education and Development (CEED) at the University of Minnesota is looking for family child care providers to participate in a project to help train professionals in using an observational tool called the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS).

Participation would include one or two trainees and a veteran user of the FCCERS coming to your family child care to observe for three hours on one morning. These observers would look at materials, such as toys, books, and equipment; watch routines like hand washing; and follow along with the children as the day goes along.

Participation does not require anything from the family child care provider except to go through a typical day. We are happy to be able to offer a \$25 Target gift card to the provider for allowing us to come in.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Kerry Gleason, training coordinator, at glea0043@umn.edu or 612-625-0874. Please feel free to forward this message to any other family child care providers that you think may be interested. Thank you!

Directors Group

Center directors are invited to participate in a monthly directors group, with trainers and speakers, specific to the groups requests. The group is focusing on the needs of directors of programs of non-profit or single site programs. The Business Wise Directors group meets on 2nd Thursdays, 10:00-12:00 at Resources For Child Caring's Minneapolis office located in the Hennepin Square Building,, 2021 E Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis.

Family Child Care Business

RCC has staff is available to work with newly licensed family child care providers in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties. Components for family child care providers include business training and coaching on marketing, contracts and policies, and record keeping. For additional business support materials such as books from the Family Child Care Business Series, published by Redleaf Press, and authored by Tom Copeland, contact Fay Hopkins at fhopkins@resourcesforchildcare.org, 651-641-6624 for more information.

NEW COHORTS STARTING FOR PARENT AWARE

The Parent Aware Rating Tool is built upon the understanding that providing high-quality child care and early learning are not easy tasks and the pressures placed on our providers are many. The rating tool is designed to recognize early educators for the quality of care they deliver and build on this quality by supporting their efforts at program improvement. If you have been to an information session, or are ready to join the next cohort of participants, please contact Valerie Peterson at valeriep@mnchildcare.org or 651-290-9704, ext. 107. You can also get the orientation application at the Parent Aware website www.parentawareratings.org



[Hennepin Licensed Family Childcare Association](#)

Learn more about **your** county provider association and how you can become a member today! HLFCA is new and growing. We are working to support your local neighborhood groups and advocate for all providers in Hennepin County.

Call Sandy for membership information at (612) 729-8494.

ARE YOU READY TO BE RATED? SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Have you heard about Parent Aware but don't feel ready? Then this is the perfect program for you; it's called the Parent Aware Getting Ready Project. Thanks to funding from the United Way, it's free and includes help with family partnerships, teaching materials and strategies, tracking learning, professional development, environment, and child safety. These are all the areas that are rated by the Parent Aware rating scale.

To join this project your must be:

1. A non-profit child care center or a licensed family child care provider with typical enrollment of at least 50% low income children
2. Be located in one of the Parent Aware Pilot Areas of St Paul, Minneapolis, or the Wayzata school district
English Language Learners are encouraged to

You will receive:

1. Free Training in any area you need to improve for Parent Aware
2. Creative Curriculum, plus training and mentoring
3. Experienced people to help you improve your child care to prepare for the Environment Rating Scale
4. Consulting and resources to help improve and prepare for all areas of Parent Aware

For more information on Parent Aware, visit www.parentawareratings.org To receive an application or to talk more about the Getting Ready project, contact Micki Lechner Riehle at 651-233-2276
MLEchnerRiehle@resourcesforchildcare.org