

Introduction

The main objective of this report is to examine the existing child care structure in Pinellas County and to determine areas of need in the county. A major goal of the study is to provide a comparison of child care facilities and in-home providers with regard to types of care offered, age-group availability, and perceived challenges among all child care providers. We hope this study will provide meaningful information regarding the specific areas within the current system of child care services, both child care facility-based and in-home, which will help create informed decision making in the future.

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R), a program of Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc. maintains a database of over **1,045** legal and licensed child care providers and early education programs in Pinellas County. CCR&R staff conducts the Annual Child Care Update Survey to gather specific information regarding program costs, discounts, fees, schedules, enrollments, vacancies, curriculum, program services, enhancements, staff qualifications, and employee salary and benefits. Additionally CCR&R completes provider updates and offers child care providers the opportunity to change information in their file by completing forms on the website or by calling CCR&R staff directly.

Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc. was originally incorporated in 1969 as Project Playpen, a nonprofit organization formed to make licensed infant care available in southern Pinellas County. In 1990, the agency changed its name to more accurately describe its comprehensive services as Pinellas County's agency for the provision of early learning education services for children 0 thru 5 years and Before and After care for school age children. The agency serves approximately **23,137** children annually with approximately **13,157** in scholarship child care at any given time. Coordinated Child Care acting as the designee for the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. has served ***5751** children for the VPK program year of 2008-2009 and has trained and approved **254** providers for a capacity of **6,126** children. (*Includes 2008-2009 School Year and Summer enrollments)

The “*Year-End Report for Child Care Resource & Referral*” offers information about the families seeking and using early child care and education programs, based on information gathered by the Family Services Specialists during the child care interview and through the Parent Satisfaction Survey. This information helps in identifying community needs, monitoring changing trends in the needs and use of early care and education services and improving direct services offered to parents through CCR&R.