



THE PURPOSE OF
COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CHILD CARE
IS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY, AVAILABILITY,
ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY
OF CHILD CARE
IN GREATER CINCINNATI

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CHILD CARE

have formed networks. 4C provides assistance to these networks through information and training. We also sponsored a Zoo outing attended by 1200 family child care providers and children.

Research has shown accreditation is an effective means to increase and ensure child care quality. With this in mind, 4C (in partnership with the Mayor's Commission on Children, and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation) has actively worked to increase the number of National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accredited early care and education programs. NAEYC Accreditation is the only uniform standard of child care quality in the nation. Going beyond state licensing requirements which deal only with health and safety issues, NAEYC requires child care centers to facilitate children's growth and development through a stimulating and nurturing program.

Technical Assistance for Child Care Professionals 1994 Results

Number of centers helped to achieve accreditation	48
Requests from centers for other assistance	148
Requests from family child care providers for assistance	162
In-depth evaluations of centers	8
A Little Something Extra, family child care newsletter published and distributed monthly to	1375

4C VALUE:

QUALITY CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION STRONGLY INFLUENCE A CHILD'S CHANCES FOR ACHIEVING HIS OR HER POTENTIAL, ARE ESSENTIAL TO PARENTS' PRODUCTIVITY IN THE WORKPLACE AND ARE CRITICAL TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF FAMILIES.

Three years ago, 4C identified a situation in which the lack of child care supply was closing doors early in some mothers' lives. High school girls were dropping out of school because they could not find child care for their babies. To answer this demand, 4C initiated a program to locate child care centers at or near high schools. In 1994, the first center opened at Crest Hills near Woodward High School. Within two months the center was full, providing care for 54 children.

This program strongly influences the child and the mother and helps them both reach their potentials. Experience has shown that if a teenage mother has hope and expectations of going on with her education, if she can dream about what and who she might become, and if she can see a way to reach her dream, then she is less likely to get pregnant again during her teenage years.

4C has also worked to meet the needs of working parents through establishing school-age and "wrap-around" care programs. School-age care provides child care for school-age children before and after the regular school day; while wrap-around care turns a part-time preschool program into a full-day program. Other ways 4C has worked to increase the supply of child care are shown in the following table.

Building the Supply of Child Care 1994 Results

Assistance to those starting a center	162
Assistance to employers on work and family concerns	24
Assistance to schools and others planning school-age care programs and expanding part-day programs	30
Family child care recruitment home visits	397
Seminars on starting a child care program	12
Participants in "starting" seminars	109

4C VALUE:

WE ARE PARTNERS WITH PARENTS, PROVIDERS, GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS, CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY, IN MAKING CHILD CARE MORE AFFORDABLE, AVAILABLE, ACCESSIBLE AND OF HIGHER QUALITY.

A challenge was how to keep Clermont County child care providers and early childhood educators informed about the many training opportunities available. Training information could change daily, so a monthly calendar would become obsolete quickly. More frequent mailings would be cost prohibitive since they must be sent to all Clermont County school districts, Head Start agencies, private child care providers and the Department of Human Services. To help solve the problem, 4C participated in a community planning process and an idea was born. Put an extra phone line in the 4C Clermont County office and have a 24-hour tape recorded message of the training opportunities.



Serving as an advocate to affect public policy is one way 4C works with the community to achieve our mission. Among the major issues addressed in 1994 were:

- **Family Child Care Zoning in the City of Cincinnati...** We were unsuccessful in this advocacy effort to make child care more accessible in all areas of Cincinnati; however, we will continue to work toward that goal.
- **Ohio and Kentucky Child Care and Development Block Grant Plans...** We were active in the community planning process to determine how to make the best use of federal grants to the states.
- **City of Cincinnati Child Care Licensing...** We worked with officials to keep the high standards of the Cincinnati child care licensing requirements, while reducing the financial burden the requirements placed on child care providers and the city.

Public Information and Assistance 1994 Results

Bi-monthly <i>Child Care News</i> published and distributed to	1900
Speaking engagements	31
Number of people reached through speaking engagements	1481
Media contacts and displays	66
Television and radio appearances	7
Print news media appearances	22
Requests for public information/assistance from organizations	210

Research Projects include:

- **Ohio Five-County Parent Survey on Child Care Needs**, publish date April 1995
- **Greater Cincinnati Employer Survey**, in partnership with the Greater Cincinnati Human Resources Association, publish date May 1995
- **Impact of Funding Freeze on Low-Income Families**, in partnership with the National Council of Jewish Women, publish date March 1994

Community Projects 1994 Results

Ohio counties in which 4C staffed the Unified Service Providers Plan	5
Outreach activities in 4C field offices	253
Committees and boards with 4C staff involvement	58

A sampling of committees:

- Butler County Preschool Task Force
- Clermont County Early Intervention
- Hamilton County Families and Children First Council
- Kentucky Youth Advocates
- Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association

GOAL:

CHILD CARE IS AFFORDABLE

Paying for child care can be an insurmountable obstacle for low-income families, especially the working poor. 4C's work to make child care more affordable encompasses everything from influencing public policy at the state, local and national levels to providing financial assistance for low-income families.

Child Care Tuition Assistance to Low-Income Working Families 1994 Results

Children helped through United Way & Community Chest funding	264
United Way support made available to families	\$590,038
Children helped through City of Cincinnati funding	71
City support made available to families	\$98,911

Child Nutrition 1994 Results

Family child care providers assisted in providing nutritious meals	539
Children benefiting from the meals	3844
Reimbursement to providers for participation	\$1,369,974





COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CHILD CARE VISION STATEMENT

Our vision for our community for 2005 includes:

Greater Cincinnati (encompassing Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky) is a place where quality child care is available and affordable for all families. The community is viewed as a national model for quality of child care and early education.

Businesses in our community are on the leading edge in the area of supportive family policies: flexibility, work/life programs, etc.

The marketplace recognizes and seeks out quality child care: parents are well informed, have access to the services their children need, and have high expectations, resulting in less need for external monitoring.

Trained and talented child care providers are sufficient in number to meet the demand.

Our vision for Comprehensive Community Child Care in 2005 includes:

4C is the hub of information on early childhood care and education, linking people and organizations to resources, serving as a major resource for education and training.

4C is the place to go for parents, employers, providers, policy makers, and others in the community who seek information on the care and development of young children.

4C is also the hub of information on and a model for balancing families and work, assisting employers and employees alike in finding positive solutions to managing work and family responsibilities.

4C attracts and keeps high-caliber employees committed to this vision and gives them the tools to carry it out.



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