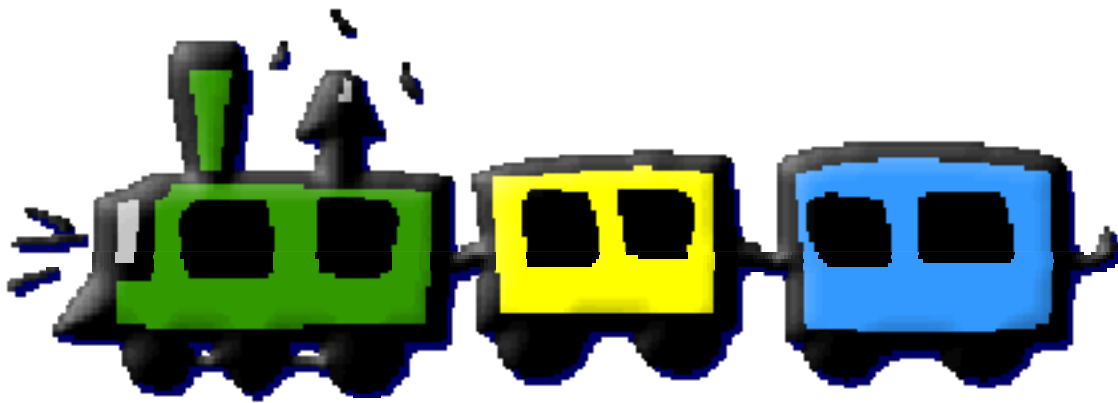


**Annual Report
On
State of Illinois
Employee Child Care Centers**



**December 2006
State of Illinois
Department of Central Management Services
Paul J. Campbell, Director**



Department of Central Management Services State of Illinois Child Development Center

The State of Illinois Child Development Center celebrated its 14th successful year in September 2006. The center is located in Chicago in the State of Illinois Building at 160 N. LaSalle Street which is located across the street from the JRTC Center. Early Child Care Services, Inc. (ECCS) manages the center. The center continues to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The center is currently licensed for 78 children, but ECCS chooses to raise their standards by keeping the center operational at 66 children. There are 3 full-time teachers for all 4 classrooms with the average room having 16 children. For most days, there is a 1:5 ratio in all rooms. Children ages 2 through kindergarten are provided full-time care. Priority enrollment is given to the children of state employees. When space is available, there is also back-up care for individual days if the primary care giver is unable to care for the child. The center is proud of the fact that it has not been necessary to replace a lead teacher in over 4 years. In 2004, the center began taking in 6 and 7 year old students for a cultural summer program. Those children were able to take full advantage of the museums, libraries and special events around Chicago. The program is a huge success.

The center is beautiful with big rooms, a separate Discovery Room (designed by Kohl Children Museum) and a large outdoor playground located on the deck of the 21st floor. The center is staffed by dedicated and highly qualified early childhood teachers who provide a developmentally appropriate curriculum. The curriculum is based on the belief that the children learn through play. The innovative curriculum includes whole language, MATH THEIR WAY, science, social studies, art, music, movement, and computers. The children are growing and developing socially, emotionally, cognitively, and physically during their time in the center. The staff provides high quality education in a safe and nurturing environment. Last year the center added monthly “just because calls” with parents which has increased the communication and has improved the ability to meet the needs of the families.

Department of Revenue Child Care by Bright Horizons Family Solutions

This year Bright Horizons celebrated its 12th year at the Department of Revenue in Springfield, Illinois. The center is currently staffed by 4 teachers and a director. With growing enrollment, the center is looking to add more part-time staff. The curriculum used at the center is WORLD AT THEIR FINGERTIPS which involves art, math, science and language. The major focus of the curriculum is getting children ready for school.

The center participated in service projects throughout the year to help the children understand the needs of others. The center developed a working relationship with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Animal Protective League and the Food Pantry. In addition, the director and teachers went to Chicago for a 20 mile walk to support Bright Spaces, an organization that helps create spaces in shelters for children. The walk was quite a challenge and even though the team did not complete the entire walk, their gallant effort did not go in vain. The families from the center sponsored the staff for the walk and the money raised was contributed to Bright Spaces to assist them in creating spaces in shelters for children.



Department of Human Services/Shapiro Learning Milestones, Inc.

Learning Milestones is located on the beautiful riverside campus of the Shapiro Center in Kankakee, Illinois. Learning Milestones is celebrating the completion of its 19th year of service to the Kankakee area. Learning Milestones continues to provide services for children from 6 weeks to 13 years of age.

The before and after school program continues for children ages 6-13. The district busses drop off and pick up directly at the entrance to the day care center, which promotes the safety of the children.

The Center is open Monday - Friday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Center is licensed by DCFS to provide extended hours of service (until Midnight), should the need arise.

Dependent Care Assistance Program

State of Illinois employees can pay for the care of their dependent children with tax-free dollars by using flexible spending accounts. Employees can set aside up to \$5000 in annual income for this purpose.

The Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP) administered by the Department of Central Management Services continues to demonstrate strong participation since its inception in 1987. In the 2006 calendar year, an average of 1597 employees participated in the program and contributions totaled \$5,751,807.

