

## EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

### *Vision Statement*

**All children in Indiana deserve access to safe, nurturing, enriching, and age appropriate early childhood care and development.**

THE CHILDREN'S COALITION OF INDIANA WILL ADVOCATE AND SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING:

### *Advocacy*

- ◆ Available, accessible, and affordable quality early childhood care and development for all children and families in Indiana.
- ◆ The adoption of quality, fair regulations for all children in early care, after-school care, and preschool.

### *Legislative Action*

- ◆ Actively support legislation that improves the availability of safe, nurturing, enriching, and age appropriate early childhood care and development.
- ◆ Establish a permanent committee to recommend and oversee public policy concerning early childhood care and development.
- ◆ Actively support initiatives to increase funding for quality early childhood care and development.
- ◆ Actively support legislation regarding lead poisoning prevention in child care settings.
  - ◆ Support child care vouchers being used only in licensed or accredited child care settings.
  - ◆ Support increased regulations for Child Care Ministries

### *Administrati ve Action*

- ◆ Support the Division of Family Resources' efforts to develop a quality rating system as a tool for assisting child care providers in improving the quality of care and to better inform parents of options for the best child care environment for their child.
- ◆ Support efforts to research, survey and study existing early education programs in Indiana, including the educational and economic benefits of accessible, affordable quality early education.
- ◆ Support public/private partnerships that encourage development of more affordable, accessible, high quality early childhood care and education, as well as issues related to the child care workforce.
- ◆ Increase coordination among the Division of Family Resources, the Department of Education and the Education Roundtable regarding issues vital to the development of children 0 – 5.

### *Implications Of Non-Action*

- ◆ If the Legislature does not move to create an improved, more equitable, and manageable system of regulation, Indiana citizens will continue to see injuries, abuse, and deaths of children in child care.
- ◆ Providers and parents will continue to be perplexed by a patchwork system that applies greatly differing standards to different settings for child care.
- ◆ Parents unable to afford child care may be forced to quit employment, forego advancement with a possibility of increased income, or leave their children in an unsafe environment.
- ◆ Children who lack exposure to enriching, developmentally appropriate environments in the early years have an increased risk of entering school not ready to succeed.

## **RATIONALE: EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

Quality child care is imperative in ensuring Hoosier children's success educationally, socially, and developmentally. Research shows that children who received quality child care at a young age were better prepared for school had greater math ability, greater thinking and attention skills, and fewer behavioral challenges<sup>11</sup>.

### **Licensed Child Care Facilities:**

As the demand for child care increases, the number of regulated facilities and available slots are decreasing. As of November 2010, , Indiana reported 595 licensed child care centers compared to 676 in 2001; 3,058 licensed child care homes compared to 3,888 in 2001, and; 741 registered child care ministries compared to 556 in 2001<sup>12</sup>.<sup>13</sup> In 2009 there were approximately 22.5 licensed child care spaces per 100 children who are ages 0-4, down from 24.3 in 2000<sup>12</sup>. This lack of sufficient licensed facilities results in parents leaving children in child care situations that are unregulated and unmonitored. Indiana is one of only four states that allow child care to be provided to 5 or less unrelated children without obtaining state licensure<sup>14</sup>. It is estimated that 1 in 6 children are receiving unregulated child care<sup>15</sup>.

### **Cost of Child Care:**

Another challenge to obtaining quality child care is the costs associated with securing care in a licensed facility. It has been estimated that the average annual fee for full-time child care for an infant in a licensed center is \$7,825<sup>16</sup>. This results in a two-parent family making the median income of \$52,744 using 15 percent of income on child care and for a single parent family at median income of \$20,844 it equals 38 percent of income on childcare<sup>17</sup>. The exorbitant cost of child care creates many challenges to low-income families securing and maintaining employment.

Due to the inability of many families being able to afford child care to enter the workforce, federal and state funds have been provided through the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). A family can get on the program if they make 127 percent or below of the poverty level (\$22,356 for a family of three) and can remain on the program until they make over 170 percent of the poverty level if they are working or enrolled in school<sup>14</sup>. 55,360 children were served by CCDF in 2009 with a monthly average waiting list of 8,488 children<sup>12</sup>.

Investing in child care assistance funding would assist Indiana in expanding economic and workforce development initiatives across the state. It is estimated that for every \$1 spent on formal child care, \$15.25 is generated in additional earnings by parents<sup>18</sup>. This equates to a national impact on the economy of \$580 billion in labor income, \$69 billion in tax revenues, and 15 million jobs<sup>18</sup>.

### **Lead Poisoning:**

Lead paint is the most common primary source of lead poisoning<sup>19</sup>. Lead was a primary ingredient in many paints prior to the ban on lead paint in 1978. Lead paint can generate paint fragments, chips, and dust (due to age or remodeling) that can have very harmful affects to young children if ingested or inhaled<sup>19</sup>. Elimination of lead paint in homes and child care facilities is the best way to prevent lead poisoning in children<sup>19</sup>. Children are more susceptible to lead poisoning because it can build up in their nervous system as they grow and develop<sup>20</sup>. Dangerous levels of lead can cause serious health problems including lower intelligence and learning problems. Symptoms of lead poisoning include sluggishness, irritability, loss of

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<sup>11</sup> *Children's Defense Fund. (2005). Child care basics.*

<sup>12</sup> *Indiana Youth Institute. (2010). Kids count in Indiana: 2010 data book. Available: <http://iyikcdb.iyi.org/resources/pdf/KC-DATA-IYI-Executive-Summary-2010.pdf>*

<sup>13</sup> *Indiana Family & Social Service Administration. Monthly/YTD Report. 11/01/2010 - 11/30/2010. Print date: 12/01/2010. Available: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/files/MonthlyYTDReport.pdf>*

<sup>14</sup> *Indiana Family & Social Service Administration. (2008). Indiana bureau of child care 2007 annual report.*

<sup>15</sup> *Indiana Youth Institute. (2006). Child care fact sheet.*

<sup>16</sup> *National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative. (2007). Indiana fact sheet.*

<sup>17</sup> *National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative. (2007). 2007 child care in the state of: Indiana.*

<sup>18</sup> *Indiana Institute for Working Families. (2005). Is Indiana getting its fair share? 2005.*

<sup>19</sup> *Indiana State Department of Health. (2008). Lead based paint program.*

<sup>20</sup> *Mayo Clinic. (2008). Lead poisoning.*

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appetite, weight loss, abdominal pain, vomiting, constipation, and unusual paleness (from anemia)<sup>20</sup>. It is imperative that all child care facilities are screened for lead by a licensed professional on an annual basis if the facility was built before 1978.