

Community Agencies that can Provide Support to Child Care Programs with Children with Disabilities

UCP Child Care Inclusion Resources

Inclusion Resources is a multi-faceted program that assists families caring for children with disabilities in securing and maintaining inclusive child care programming. While the child with a disability attends a child care program, Inclusion Resources strives to meet the following goals:

- Empower and educate child care providers on inclusion so the child with a disability has the same opportunities as children without disabilities.
- Assist with establishing a child care environment that is supportive of helping the child with a disability develop friendships.

Inclusion Resources provides consultative and on-site support to child care programs, depending on the needs of the child and the program, as determined by the inclusion resources staff. Children ages 2-13 are served and eligibility requirements are set forth by Dane County Department of Human Services.

Contact:

Ginger Schwahn, Program Director, at 273-3318

Birth to Three

Birth to Three is Wisconsin's early intervention program for infants and toddlers (ages birth to 36 months) with developmental delays and disabilities and their families. Birth to Three works to enhance the child's development and support the family's knowledge, skills, and abilities as they interact with and raise their child. They provide on-staff and early interventionists (from education, therapy, social work, nutrition, and other backgrounds) to address the needs of the child and family.

Eligibility is determined based on diagnosed disability or significant delay in one or more of the areas of development, including: learning (cognitive development), seeing and hearing (physical/motor development), communicating and understanding other's communication (speech and language development), responding to and relating to others (social and emotional development), and eating, dressing, and caring for daily living needs (adaptive development). The Birth to Three program can provide support within the child care setting, although it is generally for short periods of time.

Contacts:

Deborah Thies, Program Director of B-3 Connections (for those living in outlying areas of Dane County), at 273-3232

Karl Pierick, Intake Coordinator of ICC Bridges for Families (for those living within Madison's school district), at 204-6247 or 204-6242

UCP Teen Outreach

Teen Outreach is a program that works to create an atmosphere for teens with developmental disabilities and their peers where mutual, natural friendships are fostered and valued, where individual differences and unique capabilities are recognized, and where community resources are explored. During the school year, Teen Outreach provides middle and high school students aged 12-21 living within the Madison Metropolitan School District afterschool care throughout the community. In the summer months, Teen Outreach provides partial or full day community trips and activities to teens aged 12-21 living in Dane County.

The eligibility requirements for Teen Outreach are set forth by Dane County Department of Human Services, as well as those teens without other programming options available to them. It is important to note that there is a considerable waitlist for Teen Outreach and because of the high demand for these services, the waitlist is based upon the needs of each family.

Contact:

Ginger Schwahn, Program Director, at 273-3318

IDS (Integrated Development Services)

IDS is an autism intervention program that provides a developmental relationship-based approach to Wisconsin's intensive autism mandate. Intervention includes a variety of play-based approaches to enhance self-regulation, communication, social skills, learning, and daily living skills. Intervention sessions are usually fun, flexible, and guided by the child's interests. Although IDS focuses on providing their services in the family's home, they have been known to provide support within child care programs under certain circumstances, although it is generally for only a few hours at a time. IDS works specifically with children with autism and there is an eligibility process. In addition, there can be a waitlist for IDS autism intervention services.

Contact:

Sam Garlock, Intake Coordinator, at 441-0123

WEAP (Wisconsin Early Autism Project)

The Wisconsin Early Autism Project is a program and clinic for the treatment of children with autism based on the work of Dr. Ivar Lovaas, the pioneer of an intensive behavioral approach. Like IDS, Wisconsin Early Autism Project is an autism intervention program based on Wisconsin's intensive autism mandate. WEAP's intervention is focused on understanding language, communicating with and relating to peers, building age appropriate and symbolic play skills, and increasing conceptual thinking and cognitive skills. Although WEAP focuses on providing their services in the family's home, they have been known to provide support within child care programs under certain circumstances, although it is generally for only a few hours at a time. WEAP works specifically with children

with autism and there is an eligibility process. In addition, there can be a waitlist for IDS autism intervention services.

Contact:

Kathy Schutt, Intake Coordinator, at 288-9040

Rainbow Project

The Rainbow Project is an organization that is dedicated to working with children and families within the community surrounding the areas of mental health and abuse/neglect. They work primarily with younger children, ages 7 and under, and have been known to work on a short-term basis with child care programs facing challenges with children's social/emotional behavior.

Contact:

Lucy Jackson at 255-7356

Respite

In Good Company is a respite care program through Family Support and Resource Center that connects families to other people in our community who can provide help and support. By establishing and strengthening relationships between families and individual care providers, the program enables parents and other family members to take a break from or to receive help with their day-to-day care-giving responsibilities. Although this program generally works with children with disabilities in the families' homes or within the community, respite workers are able to go into child care programs, as well. Dane County families are eligible if they have a child or an adult living at home who meets the Dane County definition of developmental disability: a significant impairment due to autism, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, brain injury or similar handicapping condition.

Contact:

Patti Becker at 237-7630

Volunteer Boards

Posting on volunteer boards can be a good way to recruit someone who may be interested in helping a family support a child at various times of the day. There are several agencies, which allow people to post requests for help. Some of the most popular boards include:

United Way Volunteer Center at 246-4380 or www.volunteeryourtime.org

UW- Morgridge Center for Public Service at 263-2432

Craig's List at <http://madison.craigslist.org/>