

**The Children's Home
Chattanooga, TN**

Sponsoring Organization

The Children's Home
315 Gillespie Road
Chattanooga, TN 37411
423-698-2456
Fax 423-622-6549

Contact Person

Phil Acord
Executive Director
1-423-698-2456
Fax: 423-242-1670
PPASB4@aol.com

Service Delivery Area

Chattanooga Area

Type of Organization

Independent, non-profit ECE agency (The Children's Home also operates an emergency shelter and was originally incorporated to provide residential care for children.)

Summary of Approach

The Children's Home directly operates a child development center for 300 children and also provides management services to 10 additional community-based early childhood programs that collectively serve approximately 373 additional children. All of the contract sites serve children 6 weeks through 5 years of age. The Children's Home also serves children 6 weeks to 12 years of age. (Total staff, for Children's Home early childhood program as well as contract sites, is about 100 full-time and 47 part-time.)

Each contract site has its own non-profit status, board of directors and a separate banking account. However, the board of each participating center hires the Children's Home to provide all management/support services, and management staff is shared. The sites all have the same benefits, employment policies, and curriculum. All fiscal and administrative services are coordinated, using the same automated systems and reports. The CEO of the Children's Home reports to the boards of each contract agency and attends their monthly board meetings. The President of the board of each contract agency is an "ex officio" member of the Children's Home board. Additionally, one member from the Children's Home Board serves on each of the contract agency boards.

Type of Approach:

Umbrella Organization oversees several independent child care programs

Services Provided:

- USDA Food Program management for all centers – One USDA food claim is submitted each month on behalf of all sites.
- billing/fee collection – Bills are prepared by the Children’s Home financial office; fees are collected at each site by the Children’s Home management staff.
- payroll – each site has its own payroll and bank account, but they are all maintained by the Children’s Home financial office
- Staff Support – The Children’s Home employs management staff, who collectively oversee all 5 contract sites. These managers spend at least 50% of their time at each site.
- On-site Technical Assistance – see above
- Training – is frequently conducted collectively, with staff from all 10 sites.
- Classroom Observations – required by TN, and conducted annually by contract agency hired by state. The Children’s Home staff ensures, however, that each site is prepared to succeed and therefore conducts informal observations and assessments when necessary.
- Child Assessment –conducted at all sites.
- Substitutes – The sites frequently share staff and are often able to cover the need for substitutes internally.
- Shared Staff for Program Support – Social Services (comprehensive services are not available at all sites, but staff is available for consultation as needed), Volunteers, Maintenance, etc.
- Other – Same insurance company for all staff (health, disability, retirement)
- Shared Staff for Administrative Support – Management, Fiscal, Human Resources,

Narrative describing services provided:

The Children’s Home maintenance staff are available to the contract sites. Food is prepared separately but the Children’s Home food service staff is available to provide assistance and consultation and food is purchased in bulk for all sites. Volunteers, substitutes and staff recruitment are also coordinated. All of the sites use the Creative Curriculum.

Staff at Network Coordinator or “Umbrella” Organization

CEO

Executive Director for Off-Site Services

Associate Director for Off-Site Services

Administrative Assistant (for contract centers)

Finance staff

Maintenance staff

Food Service staff

Typical Staff in local sites

The contract sites are staffed by classroom teachers and assistant teachers. None of the sites has a director. Management/oversight is provided 3 managers, hired by the Children’s Home to serve all ten sites. At least one lead teacher at each site is the designated “go to” person in the event that a manager is not on site

Date Program/Alliance Began

The Children’s Home was established over 100 years ago to provide residential care for children. In 1969, the agency started an extended child care program in addition to its residential care program. In 1983 the Chambliss Emergency Shelter relocated to the Children’s Home. In 1986

the agency entered into its first child care management contract. Others were added within the next three years.

Funding

Funding varies by site, but includes: United Way (4 sites), Head Start and Early Head Start (2 sites), state child care subsidies, Hamilton County, the school district, USDA, churches and parent fees.

Participating providers

All of the contract sites are located in low-income communities. One is located in a high school and largely serves teen parents. One is sponsored by the Presbyterian Church. The Children's Home center serves 300 children. The network sites vary in size and enrollment. At present, the smallest are the school-based sites, which are licensed as group family child care and enroll 12 children each. The largest contract site currently enrolls 75 children.

Population served

The Children's Home, and its network of community-based early care and education programs, serves families at all socioeconomic levels and maintains a sliding fee scale. Approximately 80% of the families they serve are eligible to receive state child care subsidies and about 40% actually receive this assistance. About 20% are eligible for Head Start. All sites use the same sliding fee scale.