

Infant Toddler Family Day Care, Inc Fairfax, Virginia

Sponsoring Organization

Infant Toddler Family Day Care, Inc.
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Service Delivery Area

Northern Virginia – from Arlington down to Southern Prince William County

Type of Organization

Independent, non-profit ECE agency

Summary of Approach

Infant/Toddler Family Day Care of Northern Virginia, Inc. is a non-profit educational organization of family child care providers that serves @360 children six weeks and up. Providers receive a range of services, including: marketing, training (start-up and on-going), monthly support visits, billing and collection of child care fees, paid vacation, liability insurance, field trips, group activities, a professional network, emergency consultation and technical assistance. Parents also have access to support groups, parenting education (there is a special group for dads and toddlers) and stable care (substitute care is available if a provider is ill).

Type of Approach:

FCC Network w/ non-profit “umbrella”

Services Provided:

USDA Food Program management

Billing/fee collection - The agency handles all billing and fee collection, so that providers are guaranteed a per-child allocation for every child they enroll and do not have to collect fees from parents.

On-site Technical Assistance (see below)

Training – Bi-lingual, including Infant/Toddler credential for college credit

Substitutes

Shared Staff for Program Support (see below)

Other – liability insurance, mentors, a small amount of money is available for start-up equipment, if needed.

Shared Staff for Administrative Support (see below)

Narrative describing services provided:

Each provider is assigned to a Child Care Specialist who makes monthly unannounced visits. The visits are used to provide training, technical assistance, work with providers on necessary paperwork, conduct informal observations of children, etc. (If a formal child assessment is requested, the agency has staff who are trained to provide one.) Each provider is assigned a mentor, with whom she spends a week as an “intern”. The Mentor visits the new provider’s home to evaluate and assist with set-up. Providers also receive business training and tax preparation assistance.

Additionally, the agency has developed specialized training for non-English speaking providers, including a workplace ESL program and a special internship for new non-English speaking providers. They also help them enroll in and pay for a multi-lingual credit-bearing infant/toddler certificate program at the local community college. Providers that participate in Infant/Toddler Family Day Care, Inc. do not all use the same curriculum.

(Note: Infant/Toddler Family Day Care, Inc. is a licensed family child care system and has been authorized by the Commonwealth of Virginia to license the family child care homes that participate in the system.)

Staff at Network Coordinator or “Umbrella” Organization

Executive Director
Assistant Director
4 Child Care Specialists
Bookkeeper
Accountant
Administrative Assistant

Typical Staff in local sites

Each provider is licensed to care for up to 5 children, although they typically enroll only 4 – leaving one space available for substitute care, when needed.

Date Program/Alliance Began

Infant/Toddler Family Day Care was incorporated in March, 1983.

Funding

Parent fees, Fairfax County, small grants from foundations, state child care subsidies, USDA food program.

Participating Providers

The network currently includes 125 providers, 110 of whom speak a primary language other than English. Turnover is very low—around 1% a year.

Population served

The agency serves a diverse group of families – all income levels and all cultures. Currently, 340 children are enrolled and 25 of these children (from 35 families) receive a public child care subsidy.