

Early Childhood Education Services at IUB: 15 Years of Progress

Executive Summary

The Campus Child Care Support (CCCS) office celebrated its 15 year anniversary on October 1, 2011. Established in 1996, the CCCS office coordinates and oversees the five early childhood education centers on the Indiana University Bloomington campus. The CCCS office is an advocate for early childhood education services at IUB as well as serving as a resource and referral service for families seeking child care on campus and in the Bloomington community. The following is an overview of what progress has been made since the CCCS office was established and what still remains to be done.

Accomplishments Since 1996

Prior to 1996, the five child care programs on campus reported to different units and received differing levels of support. With the creation of the Campus Child Care Support (CCCS) office, the following has been accomplished in the last 15 years.

- In the past, the ECES centers reported to several different units on campus. These reporting lines for all programs have been centralized to the CCCS office.
- The number of total enrollment slots has been substantially increased. Infant and toddler care has been established at two centers.
- Campus financial support for child care services has been significantly increased. This has allowed the centers to charge families significantly less than the true cost of care.
- Campus support specifically for infant and toddler care has been established.
- Renovations and expansions have been completed at all five centers.
- The fees at the three licensed centers have been standardized.
- Policies and procedures at all of the centers have been standardized.
- The three eligible, licensed centers have become nationally accredited – less than 10% of centers nationwide hold this accreditation.
- The practice of continuity of care has been established.
- The low salaries of center staff members have been increased three times since 2000 without increasing parent fees.

- Fee discounts for student families have been established which has increased the number of student families enrolled at the centers.
- The two parent cooperatives were officially recognized as campus units and began receiving campus services.
- Strategic planning has been completed in areas including marketing, facility management, quality assurance, branding and collaboration with other campus units.
- A review of the IUB child care operations has been completed by an outside, professional consultant.
- ECES supports the university's academic mission by serving as sites for both student field placements and faculty research. In the fall 2011 semester alone, the centers provided a total of 2,481 hours in student training and faculty research.
- The availability of quality child care on campus benefits student parents in a number of ways including greater student persistence, higher GPAs and higher graduation rates.

Remaining Issues and Concerns

With all of the accomplishments of the last 15 years, there still remain important issues and concerns including:

- Increasing student family fee discounts. In order to make our services more affordable to student families, we are seeking increased funding from the Day Care Support Account and the IU Parent Fund.
- Increasing ECES teacher salaries. In order to recruit and retain the best early childhood educators in the community, the low salaries of ECES staff members need to be addressed.
- Future of Campus Children's Center facility. CCC is currently on the demolition list as part of the campus master plan. Plans to secure the future of CCC in the future are crucial.
- Need for more enrollment slots for children under the age of three. Waiting lists for the youngest age groups are extensive and more enrollment slots for infants, toddlers and two year olds are needed.
- R&R costs for ECES facilities. The centers are being asked to set aside annual funds to pay for future facility repairs. In the future, this will likely mean even higher annual parent fee increases in order to fund this R&R commitment.

- Continuing the annual campus contribution to ECES. The annual cash contribution to ECES is crucial in keeping parent fees as low as possible. Without the campus contribution, parents would have to pay the true cost of care and the fees would be up to 75% higher.