



Making Children A Priority
CDCA & St. Louis for Kids

Dear Missouri Child Care Providers:

Few professions are more important than caring for young children. We nurture children's minds, bodies and hearts. We allow their families to be employed or attend school. We play a critical role in ensuring that they grow up to be confident, competent, happy adults. This is not easy work, and the challenges are sometimes great. One of these challenges can be meeting the individual needs of diverse children—children with diagnosed disabilities or developmental delays; children with challenging behavior; children with social and emotional needs. ***We want to make sure you know about a FREE resource that is available to you to help meet these diverse needs.***

With funding from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, using federal funds from the Maternal Child Health Care Block Grant, ***United 4 Children offers a range of services to support you in including children with special needs.***

NO-COST On-Site Classroom Observation and Consultation

An Inclusion Specialist can come to your center or family child care home and, with permission from the family, observe an individual child within their classroom setting. The Specialist will gather information from the family, teachers and other specialists that may be supporting the child, and then work with the program and the family to develop a plan with specific strategies to help the child be successful.

If you have general concerns about a classroom related to including children with special needs, or preventing or addressing challenging behavior, the Inclusion Specialist can observe and provide general feedback for teachers and directors.

Training

United 4 Children will be providing training throughout the state using modules from "A Place For All Children," a curriculum about including children of all abilities in early childhood programs. Information about community-based trainings will be mailed or emailed on a regular basis, or please contact us if you'd like to schedule a training in your area.

Referrals

If you know of a family who is looking for child care for a child with special needs, you can refer them to us for assistance in locating care that works for the child and the family.

For more information, or to access any of these services, please contact us! The regional map on the reverse side of this letter gives you contact information for each regional Inclusion Specialist. For general information, please contact me at 1-800-467-2322, ext. 17, or by email at eberlemaysel@united4children.org.

We look forward to working with you!

Lisa Eberle-Mayse, MA
Director of Inclusion Services

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