

Stand For Children

The sixth Annual Stand for Children Day hosted by the Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center was held on Friday, June 2 at the Cherokee Courthouse Square in Tahlequah. This event is well attended each year. More than 30 area social service organizations provided educational materials and activities to approximately 400 participants. We also received in-kind donations from Hiland Dairy, Little Debbie, and the Tahlequah Fire Department. A live radio remote broadcast was held on KEOK radio from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Mayor Ken Purdy proclaimed June 2, 2006 as Stand for Children Day in Tahlequah.



Sparking Connections

Sparking Connections continues to be an important and innovative initiative. It is a home-based and community-based project that helps relative providers better meet the needs of the children in their care. Areas of focus include school readiness skills, health and safety promotion, and Cherokee culture and language.

Staff have worked to develop new Cherokee Play and Learn Groups. These groups provide an opportunity for the children to be exposed to the Cherokee Language in a learning environment outside the home. The Play and Learn project will address language revitalization and community building by supporting relative child care providers in their communities.

Assisting Families

- Child care referral services help families find child care by offering information on child care options. Families also receive consultation and consumer education materials to assist them in evaluating child care programs. This year R&R helped nearly 600 families explore the child care options available to them.
- Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center staff participated in Family Fun Fairs and Parent Fairs in several communities. We partnered with the Community Partnership Board of Adair and Cherokee Counties to host a Kids Day Back to School event. We organized the annual Parent Fair in Mayes county. We also participated in Week of the Young Child activities in Cherokee, Delaware, and Rogers counties. Overall, staff participated in 20 community events.

Mission: To increase the quality, affordability and availability of child care through community based resource and referral services in Northeastern Oklahoma.

Assisting the Community and Businesses

- Cherokee Nation Resource and Referral staff participated in the planning of the Cherokee County Smart Start rollout. The event featured First Lady Kim Henry as the keynote speaker . The event was a collaboration with the Tahlequah Kiwanis club. It was a successful event with 145 participants and several people committing to different endeavors. Our staff also continue to be involved in the Muskogee Smart Start initiative.
- R&R staff participated in job fairs in Cherokee and Adair counties. Staff were available to offer on-site referrals and provide consumer education materials to assist families in their search for quality child care arrangements.



The Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center is funded in part through a block grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services-Division of Child Care, and the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association.

Oklahoma Child Care
RESOURCE & REFERRAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Assisting Child Care Providers

- The Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center continues to have staff available in a satellite office in Jay. By providing an additional staff person housed in the Cherokee Nation Jay Sub Office we are better equipped to provide more timely services to families and providers in the northern counties of our service area. In addition to the satellite office in Jay, we are currently establishing a satellite office in Pryor.
- Resource and Referral staff worked with DHS licensing staff, OSU Extension staff, and tribal staff from Craig, Delaware, Mayes and Ottawa counties to provide training at their annual mini child care conference. The conference was held on October 8, 2005 in Miami and was well attended.
- The Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center provided conference training opportunities by sponsoring child care providers. Twenty family child care home providers were given the opportunity to attend the State Family Child Care Home conference. Thirteen relative providers were offered the opportunity to attend the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren conference.
- A total of 1,479 phone calls were received from child care providers requesting assistance with information on training, STARS, CDA, lesson planning, etc.

The Child Care Resource Center continues to see an increase in the number of calls from families requesting child care services.

Staff as of June 30, 2006

Marilyn Ballard, Early Childhood Educator

Carolyn Beavers, Data Entry Operator II

Arlene Greenawalt, Program Coordinator

Andria Hummingbird, Resource and Referral Specialist

Edna Jones, Clerk/Typist II

Gaynia Jones, Early Childhood Educator

Debbie Smith, Early Childhood Lead Educator

Tina Smith, Resource and Referral Supervisor

Bridget Tobey, Manager

Marsha White, Resource and Referral Specialist



**Cherokee Nation Child Care
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*To increase the quality,
affordability, and availability
of child care*

Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center Services Offered

Services for Providers

- ***Training and Technical Assistance**—offers child care providers assistance in meeting licensing requirements and improving quality
- ***Newsletters**—all licensed and Cherokee Nation registered (relative) providers receive a variety of information and resources for children
- ***Workroom**—free use of our laminator, die cuts, binder, and copier
- ***Resource Library**—libraries in Tahlequah and Jay offer curriculum books, training videos and theme kits for providers
- ***Parent Referrals**—helping providers fill their vacancies
- ***Relative provider home visiting program**—offers monthly visits with activities, books, and a variety of resources to relative providers

Services for Families

- ***Parent Referrals**—child care referrals matched to parents specific needs
- ***Financial Assistance**—information on Cherokee Nation and DHS financial assistance programs
- ***Quality Child Care**—information on the Stars Quality Rating System and what to look for when choosing quality care
- ***Parent Resources**—educational books, pamphlets, and brochures about child development and child care

Services for Communities

- ***Presentations**—information about early childhood given to groups, social service agencies, parents, providers, civic groups, and educators
- ***Employer Assistance**—information on child care referrals and resources given to employees through resource booths, luncheon meetings, and on-site seminars
- ***Events**—information and resources on our services provided at conferences, health fairs, parent fairs, Week of the Young Child events, Stand For Children, etc.