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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PROJECT PROVIDES VITAL CHILD CARE INFORMATION

CHARLESTON, IL.--Area residents wanting information about local child care options will find Eastern Illinois University's Child Care Resource and Referral Project a vital information source, according to Jackie Schaefer of Charleston, assistant director of the Project.

Located in Klehm Hall on Eastern's campus, the newly opened Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Project is a "hub" for child care information for persons living in Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Edgar, Moultrie and Shelby counties--the Project's service area.

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At the Project, professional counselors are available to answer questions about child care options, including family day care and group day care homes, in-home child care, child care centers, preschools, and before and after school programs. The staff also provides recruitment and training information to child care providers.

To inform area residents on services available from the Project, there will be a Child Care Resource and Referral booth at Mattoon's Cross County Mall Saturday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., during "A Festival for Young Children." The festival kicks-off the Week of the Young Child April 6-13, focusing on the theme "Quality Child Care...Good Beginnings Never End."

Individuals may also call the Project at 217/581-6698 or 1-800-545-7439 or stop by Room 303, Klehm Hall. Eastern's Project is part of a statewide resource and referral system, through a collaboration between the United Way of Chicago and the Illinois departments of Public Aid and Children and Family Services.

However, before calling the Project, Schaefer suggests that parents first assess their child care needs, such as the hours of care required and desired location and service fee.

After the CCR&R consultation, parents can better determine their expectations of a child care program and what "quality" child care is.

Also, a visit to several programs will help them decide what program best meets their needs, Schaefer said.

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CHILD CARE INFORMATION

"Once a decision is made, the next step is preparing one's child. Parents should talk to their children about where they are going and drive by the location several times," she added.

Lastly, Schaefer encourages parents to stay involved in the child care situation by talking on a regular basis with the child caregiver.

CCR&R services are offered on an individual basis using a sliding fee scale to parents and to employers by contract or membership fees. Child care providers receive free support services.