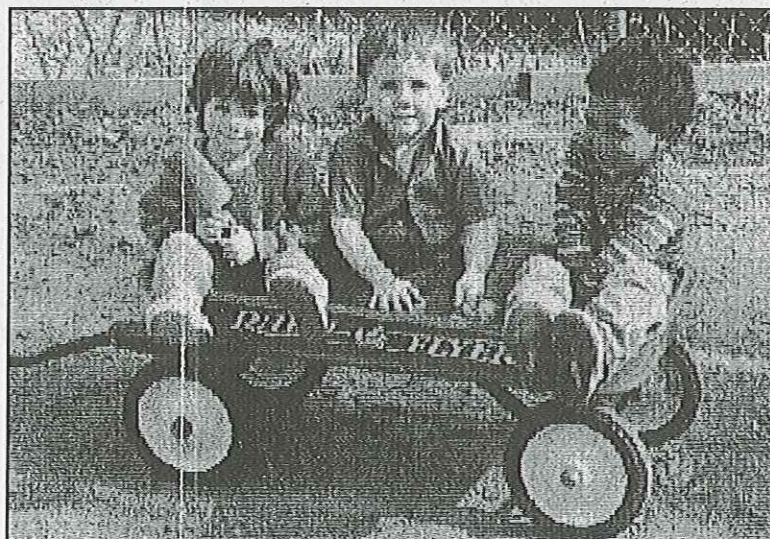


The main goal of the Madison Child Care Program is to support and improve high-quality child care in the City of Madison.

The City of Madison has established high quality standards for the accreditation of child care centers and homes. Accreditation is voluntary. It is designed to promote the optimal development of the child. By contrast, the State of Wisconsin has mandatory licensing which enforces the minimal standards necessary to protect health and safety of children.

To become accredited, centers and family child care homes go through a thorough annual review. Home care is accredited by a family child care system under a contract with the City.

Madison accreditation is unique in its emphasis on direct observation of the program in action with children. Observations are done by specially trained professional staff of the Madison Child Care Unit and family child care system. Child care experts spend many hours observing the program and the way child care staff and providers work with the children to see that standards for care are met.



The Madison Accreditation Program Evaluates

- the activities, environment and equipment offered to children
- the kind and quality of attention children receive from adults
- language and learning experiences
- communication with parents
- health practices
- administrative practices

Madison Child Care Assistance for Parents

Madison assistance is available on a sliding scale for low-income parents who need child care while they work or participate in qualified training programs. Families who are not eligible for full assistance may be eligible for partial assistance based on a sliding scale. City of Madison Child Care Assistance can be used only in accredited centers and family child care homes.

The Madison Child Care Program combines rigorous standards with timely help to improve the quality of child care for Madison's children.

The Madison Accreditation Program offers training and consultation services to help programs and providers meet the City's Standards of Quality. Centers needing financial assistance can get help from the City's small grants program or the revolving loan fund. Madison Accreditation is voluntary, but only Madison-accredited centers and homes can serve parents on City Child Care Assistance.

Accreditation is renewed annually, and the accreditation staff are available for consultation between accreditation reviews. Staff also investigate complaints and concerns of parents.

Centers and homes are justifiably proud when they earn the right to call themselves Accredited by the City of Madison.

If you are looking for child care for your child, ask whether the center or home is accredited by the City of Madison. Our children deserve the best.

For more information about Madison Accreditation, call the Office of Community Services at 266-6520 or visit our website at: www.cityofmadison.com/comm SERV

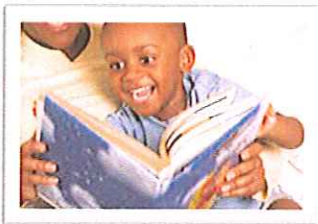
CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

Do you need assistance paying for child care...

- ❖ While you work?
- ❖ While you look for employment?
- ❖ While attending training or school?
(High school or credits beyond high school sufficient to earn an associate degree.)
- ❖ For you or your child's special needs?

Are you ineligible for the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program?

Financial assistance is available to City of Madison low income families that are ineligible for the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program and meet the City of Madison eligibility requirements. Depending on your family's income, you may be eligible for full or partial funding based on a sliding fee scale. Madison Child Care Assistance is directly tied to the City of Madison's commitment to quality early care and education. If funded, families must use a center or family child care provider that is accredited by the City of Madison.



Quality counts!

Madison Accreditation Standards are intended to ensure families and child care programs work together in creating high quality care and education for children. The Accreditation and Child Care Assistance Programs are designed to promote the optimal development of the child and to help strengthen families. Research demonstrates that quality programs have positive effects on children's cognitive and social development, health and school success.

HOW TO APPLY

Families must reside within the City of Madison limits for at least six months to be considered for eligibility.

Call the City of Madison Child Care Assistance Program at (608) 267-4996. Program staff will conduct a phone screening to determine whether or not you may qualify for assistance. If eligible your name may be placed on a waiting list.

FAMILY SIZE AND INCOME GUIDELINES		
Family Size	Monthly Gross Income	Sliding Scale
2	\$2,246	Partial assistance is available for those with incomes above the guidelines listed.
3	\$2,823	
4	\$3,399	
5	\$3,976	
6	\$4,553	
7	\$5,129	
8	\$5,706	
9	\$6,282	
10 & up	\$6,859	

Note: If your gross family income is below these guidelines, you may qualify for the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy. You can apply online at: <https://access.wisconsin.gov>.

When your name comes to the top of the waiting list, you will be contacted to schedule an appointment with the Child Care Assistance Coordinator to complete the application process.

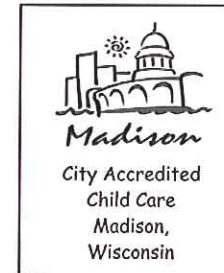
Select a City of Madison Accredited Child Care Program/Provider (call our office for a referral list or visit our website www.cityofmadison.com/commserv)

- ❖ Child Care Center
- ❖ Family Child Care Provider
- ❖ School-Age Child Care Program

MADISON ACCREDITATION

The goal of the City of Madison Child Care Program is to improve and support the quality of early care and education in the City of Madison and to provide access to quality care to low income families. Child Care Specialists and Consultants spend many hours observing programs in action to see that they meet high standards of quality within the following areas:

- ❖ The activities and equipment offered to children.
- ❖ Interactions between teachers and children, including the way staff teaches, talks to and nurtures children.
- ❖ The environment for children.



Look for this logo when choosing a child care program.

The Child Care Specialists and Consultants offer training, assistance, and support to programs to help them meet higher standards of quality care. Accredited child care centers are eligible for small grants to help them meet and maintain Madison Accreditation Standards.

