



## What is the DCFCCA Mentor program and how can I participate?

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to read about the Dakota County Family Child Care Association Mentor program and to consider becoming a part of it. Our Association is one of the few in the state that offers this program for new and seasoned providers. If after reading this, you have any questions regarding how to participate, please contact the voice mail @ 952-985-3495.

### MISSION STATEMENT

*"The mission of the DCFCCA Mentor Program is to assist individuals entering the family child care field to become highly qualified, professional caregivers by developing a peer support (Mentor) and training program"*

Family child care professionals, by the nature of their work, are primarily home bound. As a result, feelings of isolation are common. In addition to isolation, child care professionals tend to experience situations that can only be understood by other persons performing the same type of work. A large number of caring, patient people abandon the profession due to these feelings of isolation and frustration thus causing a shortage of quality care for children.

These results prompted the DCFCCA Mentor Program. Our focus is on providing quality child care for every family in Dakota County. Feel free to contact the Mentor Facilitator at any time during this program if you have any question or comments.

There are two programs within the DCFCCA Mentor Program. The first is the **Provider Care Line Mentoring** program. This program is a phone network of experienced family child care professionals who are willing and able to answer questions for other caregivers. This network is available to any Dakota County family provider who is in need of assistance. This program is generally used for those providers who only have a couple of questions. Persons choosing to be Provider Care Line Mentors would serve in an ongoing capacity and their name and phone number would be published in our newsletter. The second is the **One on One Mentoring** program. This program is a one on one relationship between an experienced provider and an inexperienced provider, focusing on the needs of the inexperienced provider. This program is generally for providers who would like more

guidance. Those persons serving as mentors will be trained in the principles of an effective mentor and will receive guidance in sharing in the professional growth of newly licensed family child care providers.

### **DCFCCA Mentee Criteria**

- Less than two years as a licensed child care provider or recommended by licensing.
- Membership in the Dakota County Family Child Care Association.
- A desire to offer high quality child care to all families in Dakota County.
- Must be willing and able to make a commitment to the DCFCCA Mentor program and fill out an application and other program paperwork and return it to the Mentor Facilitator.
- Encouraged to attend a couple area meetings with Mentor.