



Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association's Policy Recommendations for 2009

THREE PROBLEMS

1. With rising costs of just about everything to sustain daily living and an outdated child care system, something must be done to look at the long-term effects and solutions to ensure Oklahoma's youngest children are in high quality environments while their parents are at work or school.
2. The current Star System is convoluted and not easily understood by parents, providers or the general public. The Star system is supposed to be an indicator of quality but this is not always the case.



3. In some instances child care providers can still care for children without having any pre-qualifying or basic training in child development or best practices for working with children.

THREE SOLUTIONS

1. *Participate in a Task Force* to look at the child care system in our state and propose recommendation for long-term sustainability. Representation on this task force would come from across the state and may include: families, business leaders, economists, child care professionals-, and programs involved in the early care and education system.
2. Partner with Oklahoma Child Care Services to *revise the current Star System* to make it easier to understand for parents, providers and the general public. Redefine the 2 and 3 Star levels; make the 3 Star have mandatory requirements. Require all licensed programs to participate in the Stars program whether or not they accept subsidy.
3. Require anyone who will be working with children to take the ELCCT course before they start work. Require child care providers to have 24 hours of training annually. Enhance or expand the current ELCCT course.

