

Family Child Care Professionals

Experience and Training

- The average number of years that family child care professionals reported providing child care in their homes was 10.5, with a range of one month to forty years.

Education	Percent
High school diploma/GED or less	42%
Some college, 1 year certificate, or 2 year degree	45%
4 year degree	9%
Unknown	4%

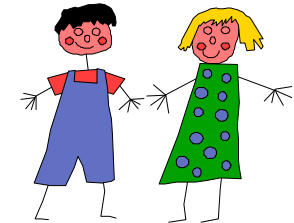
- None of the home based professionals with a two-year degree hold a degree related to early childhood education.
- Fifty-two percent of family child care professionals stated they followed a curriculum. Of those, 46% developed it themselves, 3% use "Creative Curriculum" and 5% reported "other."
- Fifty-five percent attended a training or meeting in the last year.
- Over 63% stated they would be providing child care in their home for at least 5 more years.
- Reasons reported that might contribute to leaving the child care field included: "lack of benefits," "need more income," and "lack of vacation time."

Recommendations

- ✓ **Community Needs.** It is recommended that Dubuque County Empowerment continue to use the Work Force Survey information and other community needs assessment efforts as a foundation in their decision making process and strategic allocation of the scarce resources. In particular, special attention should be given to the types of child care services available compared with the needs of the community.
- ✓ **Salary and Benefits.** Dubuque County should give further attention to pay and benefits, and with continuing and increasing funds, continue its support for higher salaries and/or bonuses for child care professionals. Some special attention should be given to the structure of those salaries.
- ✓ **Training.** The responses of both center/home professionals and directors indicates that further attention should be paid to the training needs of Dubuque County's child care work force. In particular, there appears to be a need to target family child care professionals. Cost, location and convenient times for training are significant barriers.

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CHILD CARE WORK
FORCE STUDY

Dubuque County, Iowa