

Family Connections staff contacts all enrolled child care providers each quarter to gather statistical information on vacancies in your program. During these calls many of you are reporting low enrollment, likely due to the economy and changes in the DHS child care reimbursement programs.

Our quarterly reports, along with parent consultant information, show that there are 3 areas with a greater need for child care services. These areas include:

- ◆ **SPECIAL NEEDS**
- ◆ **INFANTS AND TODDLERS**
- ◆ **EVENING AND WEEKEND CARE**

If you have experience with or are willing to learn about caring for a child or children with special needs such as behavior or socialization support, physical disabilities, developmental delays, and mental/emotional health support, please call us to be sure we have these areas marked in our database, so that we may refer parents of children with special needs to your program.

Often providers choose not to care for infants and toddlers due to the low number of licensed slots that can be filled with children in this category, and cost effectiveness. Consider lowering your age range to include infants and toddlers even if you are willing, or possibly considering caring for only one child from 6 weeks to 2 years old. Please remember to change your CCD license if it states that you only care for older children.

Many parents who call Family Connections for child care referrals work in fields such as retail, food service, hospital staff, etc. and are looking for care during their evening and weekend work hours. Even if you are willing to take 1 or 2 children during these non-traditional child care hours, think about changing your open hours so that we can likely send more referrals your way. There are some CCD rules around providing overnight care that you will want to look into. Also remember to change your operating hours with your CCD licensing specialist if you decide to expand your program's open hours.