



FLAS COMMUNITY EDUCATION
MARCH 2018

Positive Happenings

Childcare Programs • SAC • Sonic • Steps Ahead

Child Care & Development Fund Requirements Bring Changes to FLAS Childcare

During the 2017 legislative session, state legislators enacted many changes to bring the state of Minnesota into compliance with the federal Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF) requirements. One major component of CCDF is that all childcare programs that receive childcare assistance payments must meet minimum standards that promote healthy and safe environments for children (regardless of a program's licensure status). More specific information can be found in Minn. Stat. 245H. As a part of this effort, license-exempt centers that participate in Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) will need to become certified, which will allow the Department of Human Services (DHS) to monitor certified centers with minimum certification requirements. If a license-exempt center opts out of certification, that program will no longer be eligible to participate in CCAP.



Certification in Progress

In November 2017, FLAS Childcare Program completed the DHS paperwork indicating that the program plans to become certified. The DHS certification insures that the FLAS Childcare Program will continue to serve families receiving childcare assistance today and in the future. As we work toward certification, staff are working towards best practices in the areas of training, health and safety, record keeping, monitoring and inspection. The mandate requires that all childcare staff will need to complete the NETStudy background check, which also includes finger printing. Documentation, such as emergency preparedness and response procedures, will also need to be present at each elementary site. All childcare staff are embracing this opportunity for childcare improvement as we want the best for our community.

Childcare for Little Rangers

NEW! Fall 2018

Providing childcare is essential to making preschool accessible for all. Children enrolled in Little Rangers full day option now have the opportunity to register for School Age Care (SAC). SAC offers childcare before and after school and will be available on enrolled preschool days at Columbus, Forest View, Lino Lakes, Linwood, Scandia and Wyoming Elementaries. A family's first positive experience in FLAS may have lasting effects including becoming a FLAS RANGER!

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