

Provider & Child Education Services (PACES)



Provider & Child Education Services (PACES), a Linn County Community Empowerment project, works with child care homes to improve the quality and availability of child care for families with infants and toddlers through two free programs:

- PACES Providers, and
- PACES – First Steps

PACES Providers

The PACES Providers program focuses on the recruitment, training, and support of child care homes. Key components of this program include:

1. Technical assistance/in-home visitation,
2. Enhanced training, and
3. Quality assessment

In keeping with the overall quality improvement goals of the program, PACES has a strong training and quality promotion component. Newly recruited homes are allowed to begin participation as long as they are making steady progress toward the full completion of these requirements. Basic requirements to become a PACES Provider are:

- Provide child care in Linn County to children 0 – 5 years of age
- Registration with the State of Iowa as a Child Development Home
- Participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Complete ChildNet Certification
- Willingness to accept Department of Human Services' Child Care Assistance funding

To encourage the continued professional development of these child care providers, the following incentives are made available to PACES Providers:

- Home visits with PACES staff
- Curriculum with developmentally appropriate activities
- Free specialized seminars
- Bonuses for completion of ChildNet Certification
- Opportunities for networking with other providers
- An equipment/educational materials stipend
- Technical assistance

PACES-First Steps

Child care home providers that would like to sample PACES services may sign-up for PACES – First Steps. PACES – First Steps is available to any Linn County child care home provider who accepts children ages 0 – 5. Child care providers in this program receive three home visits from PACES staff over a four to six week period that will provide assistance in three specific areas related to running their business.

The first home visit focuses on Department of Human Services Registration and Child Care Assistance. The next visit offers the provider information on marketing, business issues, the Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the Iowa Child Care Quality Rating System (QRS). The final home visit addresses age appropriate activities for children in care and an overview of the PACES Provider program.

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